

SOCCER

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WEEKLY

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GST INCLUSIVE

SOUTH MELBOURNE DECIMATED

By John Economos

DESPITE having won the Minor League Championship, (first past the post), last season, South Melbourne's super squad successfully coached by former South player and international, Mickey Petersen, over recent weeks has been decimated.

Since the close of the NSL season, South Melbourne has lost no less than six, and could in fact possibly lose as many as nine, of its star players.

First to surprisingly jump ship was the Club's rookie, (but nevertheless highly successful), coach, Mickey Petersen.

Petersen after one season as Head coach at South, surprisingly left the



Mickey Petersen — Gone.



Michael Petkovski — Gone.



Goran Lozanovski — Gone.



Con Boutsianis — Gone.



Andy Vlahos — Gone.



Brazil's Guilherme (9) watches as his kick goes past Peru's Pedro Garcia (16) and goalie Oscar Ibanez (right) to score a goal in their second match of the Copa America in Cali's Pascual Guerrero Stadium, Colombia, early yesterday.

giant Victorian outfit to takeover the reins of the Auckland Kingz.

Then slowly, but surely a steady stream of players started to leave the National League's Minor Champions.

The most significant players involved in this exodus from South, include:

Michael Petkovic (Lillestrom, Norway-on loan).

Simon Colosimo, (transferred to Manchester City, England).

Con Boutsianis, (transferred to Kingz, New Zealand).

John Anastasiadis, (retired).

Andy Vlahos, (transferred to Kingz, New Zealand).

Goran Lozanovski, (transferred to Aachen, Germany).

Central marker Mehmet Durakovic, midfielders Richie Alagich and Vas Kalogeracos, are all out of contract and have not as yet re-signed with South.

When ABSW contacted the Club last night, an official stated to us: "Other than striker Peter Buljan, we have not signed anyone else."

"We have Board elections coming up this Sunday and nothing can be done till after that."

"That also includes the appointment of the new coach," ended the official.





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29 Joeys get World Cup Summons



Fred Agius: U17 midfielder game invited to camp.

E-Timorese visit AIS

The Australian Institute of Sport (AIS) last Friday hosted an Under 14 team from East Timor, which is participating in the 2001 Kanga Cup being held in Canberra.

The players and officials who come from war-torn backgrounds were provided with a special tour of the AIS taking in all facets of the world-renowned institute.

The one and half hour tour also gave the East Timor team an opportunity to meet some of the

institute's great athletes.

The Director of the AIS, Michael Scott said he was delighted that the institute could assist in providing some joy to children whose background's had been affected by such terrible circumstances.

"I'm sure coming to the AIS and meeting some of the large stable of champions that we have here at the institute will be an uplifting experience for these kids and help put a smile on their faces," Mr Scott said.



Jacob Rex: U17 goalkeeper also invited.

National Youth Coach Ange Postecoglou will hold a week-long camp for 29 players, as he seeks to pick the final Joey squad, for the upcoming FIFA Under-17 World Championship, to be held in September, in Trinidad & Tobago.

Australia has been drawn with defending champion Brazil, host nation Trinidad &

Tobago, as well as Croatia in Group A action, with the first match billed for September 14, against Brazil.

Postecoglou will name his final squad for the World Championship, at the end of the camp in Canberra.

The 29-man LG Joeys selection squad, into camp at the AIS from July 23 is produced below.

THE FULL LIST

NAME	Position
BRINIAS Dimitri	Goalkeeper
COE Nathan	Goalkeeper
REX Jacob	Goalkeeper
BOJIC Predrag	Defender
BROXTON Darren	Defender
DILEVSKI Spase	Defender
HUNTER Matthew	Defender
STUDMAN Brett	Defender
VAN DOMMELE Adam	Defender
WILKINSON Alex	Defender
WOODS Joshua	Defender
AGIUS Frederick	Midfielder
BAVEAS Steven	Midfielder
BROWN Michael	Midfielder
DANZE Anthony	Midfielder
KARLOVIC Mario	Midfielder
LIA Vince	Midfielder
STAVROULAKIS Nick	Midfielder
STEVENS Ben	Midfielder
VALERI Carl	Midfielder
WALDON Ian	Midfielder
WALLER Russell	Midfielder
ENGEL Matthew	Striker
HOLMAN Brett	Striker
LUCAS Jay	Striker
MANCESKI Steven	Striker
PARKINSON Louis	Striker
SMITH Terry	Striker
WALSH Sean	Striker

Spirit shift to Cromer Park

Northern Spirit is moving its football training operations to Cromer Park from August 20 but retains North Sydney Oval as its home ground.

The move came about due to problems securing a regular training pitch at the Oval forcing the club to split training between the Oval, North Sydney Oval No 2 and Cammeray Oval, depending on usage.

The Northern Spirit first grade side will now train at Cromer Park, Dee Why on a permanent basis with Northern spirit contributing money to the grounds, used by the Manly Warringah Soccer Association, to help maintain the facility.

Two of those ovals (North Sydney Oval and North Sydney No 2) did not permit the Northern Spirit squad to use a full pitch due to the cricket pitches that are a permanent fixture at both grounds during the summer months.

Spirit has one more week of training at the North Sydney Oval before a four-week break on July 20. Pre-season training begins on August 20, at Cromer Park for the first time.

Cromer Park gives the Northern Spirit football operation a permanent ground to train on with the use of five pitches and an all-weather synthetic pitch for wet conditions.

The existing dressing room and clubhouse facilities will be upgraded to accommodate Spirit's training requirements.

"We have decided to move the football operations to Cromer Park because it gives us a permanent set up with the use of full pitches," said Northern Spirit Director of Football Bill Collins.

"Cromer Park has training facilities, which with some minor work will be more than adequate for our needs and is close to beaches, pools and other cross-training facilities and areas."

Spirit General Manager Colin Mitchell however quashed talk of a permanent move away from North Sydney Oval, stressing that the club and North Sydney Council are finalising an agreement for an upgrade of the existing lighting at North Sydney Oval and an extended lease agreement.

Olympic adopt Sharks in major name change

Sydney Olympic are set for radical changes in the next season with last week's relocation to Toyota Park in Sutherland on the outskirts of Sydney, as well as the change of name to Olympic Sharks.

A three-year deal with National Rugby League side, the Cronulla Sharks which enables Olympic to become part-tenants at Toyota Park, was finalised last week.

Olympic General Manager, Peter Raskopoulos dropped the hint on Wednesday night while fielding questions from fans and admirers of the club at an 'Open Forum' organised by the club. Raskopoulos however sounded cautious when he added that the club was still awaiting final word from Cronulla Sharks management.

"We're just into talks now and will probably know early next week whether it is a yes or no," Raskopoulos disclosed. Basically we are looking at moving the whole side to the (Sutherland) shire area, playing out of Toyota Park.

"We believe geographically it is a good move for the club and the area to have an NSL club - it's a positive on both sides.

"We've just got to finalise details with the (Sharks) leagues club - I'm confident it will be a positive response."

Sharks general manager Ed Gibson however confirmed the deal when approached by ABSW. In his words:

"We've agreed in principle that Sydney Olympic play at Toyota Park. The Sharks will still manage Toyota Park and they (Olympic) are basically going to be tenants".

"And they have indicated they will change their name to the Olympic Sharks, but that obviously was not a prerequisite to the agreement. We've been in negotiations with them for two months now and had some preliminary talks six months ago."

Raskopoulos however also predicted major recruitment coups for the coming week.

"At the moment we are targeting six players and we are confident of getting three - if we get four we will be very happy with our recruitment for next season," he said.

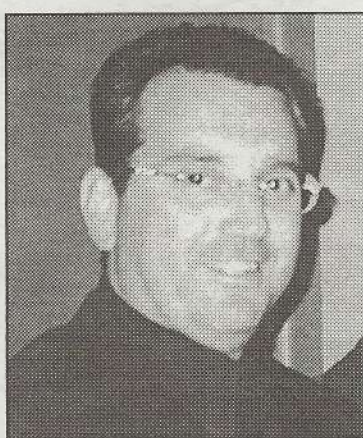
"I'm not going to mention names before getting pen to paper but we are hoping to make an announcement on a couple of new players next week."

THEODORA' OFF TO GREECE

Former Wollongong Wolves coach, who led them to a sensational Grand Final win over Perth Glory in 2000, Nick Theodorakopoulos left Australia last week in company of ex-Adelaide City striker, Kosta Salapasis, as he prepares to assume duty at Greek second division side, Kallitheia FC.

Theodorakopoulos, who narrowly missed succeeding Lee Sterrey as Newcastle United coach, last month will be attempting to secure promotion to the elite Greek premier division with Kallitheia.

The highly-respected tactician is keen on strengthening the Greek club with



Nick Theodorakopoulos

experienced players, which is why he has already secured the services of Salapasis - who also has the advantage of a Greek background.

Also tipped to make the move Kallitheia is another former NSL star, South Melbourne's tireless midfielder Bill Damianos across from Xanthi - where he has spent the last three seasons. Theodorakopoulos is keen to engage the services of Damianos who he knows very well from his NSL days.

Athens-based Kallitheia finished fourth in the old Greek second Division, but with the arrival of the new Premier League, are now a First Division club chasing promotion into the Premier League.

Olympic's Skipper in Norway

By John Economos

ANTE JURIC, Sydney Olympic's captain and sweeper, is close to landing a contract in Norway with Molde, the Club that former Northern Spirit striker, Clayton Zane first signed for.

Olympic's lanky lateral defender has been trialing with Molde over the past two weeks where he has impressed the Norwegian coaching staff.

Should Juric be signed by Molde, he will become the fourth Australian to break into the Norwegian League, joining Zane, former Marconi midfielder Chad Gibson and as from late last week, South Melbourne's goalkeeper, Michael

Petkovic.

However a stumbling block surfaced over the week-end for the Olympic captain.

Due to the fact that Juric is not a 'free agent' and is still under contract to the Sydney Club, it's understood that Molde's officials are now reluctant to pay the hefty fee being asked by Olympic for the release of Juric.

The 27 year old goalscoring defender, has been Olympic's most consistent player

over the past two seasons.

Should Juric split company with Olympic it

could prove to be a critical loss to the Sydney side.

With central marker, Scotty Baillie already gone to Newcastle United and the collapse of the pending Buddy



Ante Juric Sydney Olympic's skipper (right), seen here in action last season against the Perth Glory's ace marksman, Bobby Despotovski, is currently in Norway and may not return.

Farah signing last Friday night, Olympic could be left well short of experienced central defenders.

Olympic last Wednesday night released that they had secured the services of Marconi's central defender-cum-midfielder, Farah.

But last Friday night Farah did a 180 degree and decided to sign up with Wollongong Wolves where he had been having dialogue with coach Ronnie Corry for the past few weeks.

Following seven years of service with Marconi, and despite still being under contract, Farah had decided to move on and link up with Wollongong.

Meanwhile Farah is

also understood to have trials lined up over in Germany.

Getting back to the Olympic captain situation, it's now believed that Juric has made it clear he has little desire to return to Australian Soccer.

And this applies even if Juric is not ultimately accommodated with a contract at Molde.

Both Juric and his Agent firmly believe that should the player fail to secure a contract in Norway, they are quite confident that the Olympic defender can find another club in Belgium.

In the meantime it's believed that Olympic is willing to loan Juric out to Molde till the end of September for a moderate fee.

VPL FINAL TOP-FIVE EMERGE

The closest Victoria Premier League season in memory has drawn to a close after the weekend's games. All is in readiness for the Finals series which begins on Sunday July 22nd.

The Minor Premiers for 2001 are the Port Melbourne Sharks. The Sharks, a free-scoring side that were easily the highest goalscorers in the

league, were consistently in the top couple of teams for the whole year.

It remains to be seen whether they can go all the way in the Finals to be crowned Champions, but they will be high on confidence.

They will have a rest for the first week of the Finals series before their Major Semi Final at SS Anderson

Reserve, Port Melbourne next week.

The top five teams for season 2001 are:

	Points
1. Port Melb Sharks	42
2. Heidelberg United	39
3. Bulleen Zebras	38
4. Altona East Phoenix	33
5. Bentleigh Greens	32

The Qualifying Final will be between Eastern suburbs rivals Heidelberg United and Bulleen Zebras at Heidelberg's Olympic Village.

The game will kick off at 3pm on Sunday July 22nd. The winner will play against Port Melbourne to decide the first combatant to make the Grand Final.

The Elimination Final will be between Altona East Phoenix and Bentleigh Greens at Paisley Park, Altona at 3pm on Sunday July 22nd. The loser won't play any more soccer in 2001, whilst the winner will go on to play the loser of the Qualifying Final (Heidelberg Vs Bulleen).

The teams that have been relegated to the Crazy John's State League are the two teams that were promoted this year — Dandenong and Essendon. Essendon were winless this year, whilst Dandenong were relegated on an amazing 27 points.

In an incredibly-close and exciting season, every team

was capable of beating every other team. The added pressure of the Finals series will increase the excitement, and increase the unpredictability

of each game.

The Grand Final will be held at Bob Jane Stadium on Sunday August 12th at 3pm.

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PARRAMATTA EAGLES SOCCER ACADEMY

DIRECTOR OF COACHING

PARRAMATTA EAGLES SOCCER ACADEMY

Parramatta Melita Eagles Soccer Club Ltd has recently finalised an Agreement with Manchester United Football Club plc to operate a Soccer Academy in Oceania, based in Sydney.

The Academy will identify, develop and train talented young players in the 11 to 17 years age groups. Selected players will play for Parramatta Eagles in the New South Wales Super Youth League and Super Cadet League competitions.

Parramatta Eagles invite applications for the position of Director of Coaching within the Academy. This is a full time role, and will include the following responsibilities:

- Implementation of the coaching curriculum within the Academy.
- Appointment and management of all coaches within the Academy.
- Be actively involved in the identification and development of talented young Soccer players.
- Liaise with senior management of both Manchester United and Parramatta Eagles.
- Initiate forward planning for the Academy — both in terms of coaching and promotion and development of the Academy throughout Oceania.

The Director of Coaching will be highly experienced in coaching elite youth players, have suitable coaching qualifications and perhaps have a background in playing at a high level, either domestically or overseas. The Director of Coaching will also have excellent communication and interpersonal skills, have general commercial experience and perhaps have tertiary sports education qualifications.

An attractive remuneration package commensurate with experience is available to the selected applicant.

Application should be submitted in writing to the Chairman, Academy Management Council, Parramatta Eagles Soccer Academy, Melita Stadium, Everley Rd, Chester Hill, NSW. 2162.



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Granville & Districts Soccer Football Association

Cottam Cup Final

Kick Off — 7.45pm

(Oldest Soccer Knockout competition Trophy in Australia)

Merrylands SFC Senior Div 1

V/S

Merrylands SFC Over 35 Div 1

(HISTORY HAS BEEN MADE)

When: 25th July 2001

Where: Melita Stadium — Everley Street, South Granville

Major Sponsor — Club Merrylands (Merrylands Bowling, Sporting and Recreating Club)

Merrylands SFC 30th Anniversary Dinner 11th August 2001

For further details contact Carol Martin on 9631 4317

Thistle Cup Final

Kick Off — 6.30pm

Castle Hill United Under 14 Div 1

V/S

Lidcombe Waratah Under 14 Div 1

The Good Oil ... The Good Oil

Sydney Olympic's General manager Peter Raskopoulos is hungry to sign up a 'mystery striker' for his coach Branko Culina who is currently in Europe.

The 'mystery striker' is 26 years old, a strong fin-

In a loan transfer deal for three months plus an option in which the Norwegians can buy Petkovic outright, Lillestrom are the current League leaders at the halfway mark.

Also at the Club is

Wayne O'Sullivan from Plymouth Argyle.

Other new signings made by Mitchell in recent weeks have been, Steve FitzSimons (Gold Coast), Brad Groves (Leeds United), Lubo Lapsansky, Matthew Langdon.

It's believed that Mitchell has also targetted New Zealand's World Cup striker, Vaughan Coveny.



By John Economos

The long-range goalscorer Henderson went on to captain Australia when he played for Marconi.

due that he spends some leisure time with his lovely wife, Mira.

For the past almost four weeks, the Matics have toured Perth, Broome, Darwin, Alice Springs and Cairns.



Zoran Matic: Master-coach of 'The Black & Whites'.

This week Zoran has briefly called into Sydney for some business matters (not Soccer-related).

Matic is understood to want to signed three new players but has been shocked by the 'telephone numbers' (signing on fees) that his 'targets' have been 'dialling' to him.

The always philosophical Matic stated last night to 'Good Oil': "When you stop learning, you're in real trouble. I'm still learning every day, as you can see," Matic ended.

SYDNEY UNITED' future in the NSL, as recently as just three months ago, appeared very grim to say the least.

Having survived Soccer

First we heard the surprising news that former ace international Aljosa Asanovic, had consented to come back to Australia and play a full season, following his two game guest appearances last season in the NSL.

Galvanising the signing of Asanovic, late last week Sydney United broke the amazing news that it has also snapped up Croatia's World Cup goalscoring wizard, Davor Sukor for two early guest appearances.

Sukor was the 1998

SYDNEY OLYMPIC last week officially announced that it had signed up Lebanon World Cup central marker, Buddy Farah.

The 22 year old strapping Marconi defender cum midfielder, was urgently needed by Olympic whose defence has recently been ripped apart with off season departures by central marker Scott Baillie moving to Newcastle United and sweeper and captain Ante Juric expected any day now to sign up with First Division Norwegian outfit, Molde.

But then all of a sudden



Peter Raskopoulos: Olympic's General manager.

isher and was his Club's top goalscorer last season ... in the NSL.

'Rasko' has also targetted Brisbane Strikers' international midfielder, Jay North.

□□□□

PETER BULJAN, the 23 year old Brisbane Strikers' goalscorer, was late last week snapped up on a two year deal by South Melbourne.

Australian international striker Clayton Zane who is the side's leading goalscorer.

"I've always wanted to play overseas and this is an ideal opportunity for me to achieve this goal," stated Petkovic.

"With Clayton already there, it makes things a little easier for me knowing I'll be joining another Australian," ended Petkovic.



Matthew Langdon: Signed up by the Parramatta Power.

However Coveny is still under contract to South Melbourne and his desired shift to the Parramatta Stadium would be more difficult to achieve.

□□□□

The Cottam Cup Final, the oldest Soccer knock-out competition trophy in Australia, will be played tomorrow week, July 25th at the Melita Stadium.

(For further details, please refer to advert on Page 3.

Former Australian internationals and former Marconi players will be competing.

Tony Henderson, arguably the best attacking centre-back to have come to Australia will be one of the players.

Henderson, a lanky Englishman, was brought

Dennis Colusso and Joe Rizzotto will also be playing in the Cottam Cup Final.

The Cottam Cup trophy was initially presented back in 1907 to the NSW Association by Sir Harry Holdworth Rawson and always has been played on a straight knock-out format and is open to all Amateur Senior teams.

Granville in 1916 was the first Association to win the Cup for three consecutive years.



Tony Henderson: Former Australian captain to play in Cottam Cup Final next week.

The Cup's name was tagged in memory of J.W. Cottam who was killed in action in France on April 17th, 1917.

J.W. Cottam, a highly talented player, played for Granville Magpies till he enlisted in the Armed forces in World War 1.

□□□□

ZORAN MATIC, Adelaide City's industrious master-coach, recently decided that it was long over-

Australia's threatening criteria for its continued existence in the National League, today, more than ever before United is getting stronger.

During the current off season, Sydney United has silently, but rapidly been re-building its squad.

The United squad has been greatly stiffened by the signings of two former Croatian World Cup players.



Buddy Farah: Finally signed up by Wollongong Wolves.

World Cup's top goalscorer having nailed the target six times.

But United has not only signed these two internationals.

Others to have been snapped up during the off season, are:

Goalkeeper, John Perosh, the Santalab brothers, (Michael and Brendan), strikers Jon Angelucci and Daniel Watkins.

The Sydney United squad is starting to have a lethal look about it and could steam ahead and strongly challenge for the League Championship in the coming season.

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things went wrong and the 'wheels fell off for Olympic'.

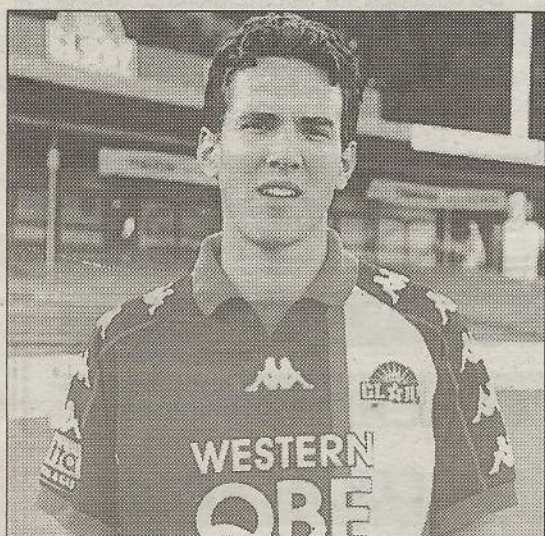
Wollongong's coach Ronnie Corry who some months back had set his sights on signing Farah, sealed the deal last Friday night when both parties put pen to paper, making Farah a Wollongong player.

It appeared that the powerful blond defender was all but signed by Olympic until the current Australian League champions, came back with a second and stronger offer.

Olympic has already lost Scott Baillie, possibly Juric whilst midfielder Greg Owens and striker Nick Carle want to go overseas. Other departures have been



Davor Sukor: Croatia's World Cup wizard signed by Sydney United.



Peter Buljan: Snapped up by South Melbourne late last week.

Buljan had made his debut into the NSL with the Canberra Cosmos but played short stints with the Perth Glory before heading North to Queensland.

In 92 NSL games, talented Peter has scored 26 goals.

After signing with the Victorian giants, Buljan stated: "I'm excited to come to a Club like Souths that has so much history and tradition.

"I'm looking forward to playing with the great players at the Club and hopefully be able to assist South Melbourne in having another good season.

□□□□

MICHAEL MPETKOVIC, Souths' high quality international goalkeeper, last week signed for Norwegian First Division side, Lillestrom Sportsklub.



Michael Petkovic: Signs for Norwegian side, Lillestrom.

DAVID MITCHELL, the Parramatta Power's head coach, has signed up 27 year old English midfielder,

to Australia by former Australian World Cup captain John Warren in 1977 to play for the then called Canberra City.

The Good Oil ... The Good Oil

Kresimir Marusic plus striker Pablo Cardozo who has signed for the Northern Spirit.

WORLD CUP 2002 tickets are now on sale.

FIFA has designed a new ticket for fans around the globe.

The new 'Team Specific Tickets' (TST), give the fans the opportunity to buy tickets to see and follow their own team all the way through to the Final, should that team ultimately qualify.

The 2002 World Cup finals kick off on May 30th culminating through to the Final on June 30th.

The World Cup Final will be jointly hosted by Japan and Korea.

There are two types of Team Specific Tickets.

a) "Conditional Series Tickets". This series gives the fan access to tickets in the FIFA World Cup final competition until his or hers team is eliminated.

b) "Fixed Series Tickets".



2002
FIFA WORLD CUP
KOREA JAPAN

This series extends to the fan a guaranteed ticket to all purchased rounds of the final competition, including the Final match, regardless whether his or her chosen team progresses from round to round.

Ticket application forms are accessible on-line at either:

www.FIFAWorldCup.com, or

www.socceraustralia.com.au, or via:

2002 FIFA World Cup Ticketing Bureau, phone 44 870 123 2002.

Fax :44 870 124 2002.

E-mail: Sales@fifa-tickets.com

Internet: www.FIFAWorldCup.com

JOE CACHIA, the

Wollongong Wolves' industrious Chairman, has great aspirations that his crack Australian League Champion team will be flat out, for the second time, to seriously defend its League Championship title.

Despite Wollongong having lost key players during the off season, (viz: skipper Matt Horsley and mobile, lethal left footer, Scotty Chipperfield), the cagey Cachia's enthusiasm for the new season has dampened not one single bit.

"We believe we have the best coach in the League, (Ronnie Corry), and he has

always done a marvellous job.

"We also believe that we have the quality of players to be able to hunt down our third consecutive League Championship."

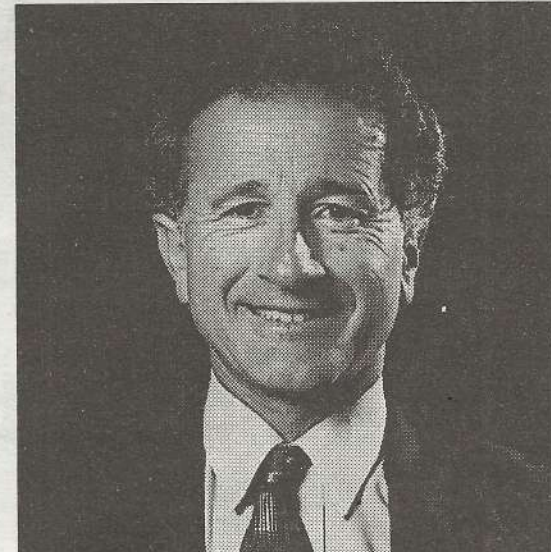
The no nonsense Cachia last week, also warned ABSW that he would be launching an appeal to FIFA against the muted \$1.45 million compensation that the World authority body is considering paying to the 12 World Club Champions for the collapse of the FIFA World Club Tournament that was to have taken place in La Coruna, Spain later this month.

With the shock folding of FIFA's bankrupt marketing Company-ISL/ISMM—FIFA last month was suddenly forced to cancel the Tournament in Spain.

Wollongong as Oceania Club Champions, had qualified for the World Club Championship and in the process had incurred huge expenditure in the qualifiers staged last January in Port Moresby, New Guinea.

As well, Wollongong since then had outlaid much added expenditure in bolstering its squad in readiness for the intended Club's crusade to Spain later this month.

Now it appears that Wollongong has been denied the golden opportunity of reaping at least \$5 million from FIFA for making it to Spain as the Champions of Oceania.



Joe Cachia: Chairman of the League champions.

Last week Cachia had stated to ABSW: "We were from the outset, guaranteed at least \$5 million for just getting to Spain-win, lose or draw."

"This was basic."

"Now all that has disappeared."

"However I can assure you that Wollongong Wolves will be launching a legal challenge over this matter," seriously ended Mr Cachia.

SENEGAL, the small West

African nation, last Sunday made a giant stride towards qualifying for its very first World Cup Finals next year.

In its clash against the crack, and previously undefeated Moroccans, Senegal defeated its far more illustri-

ous opponent 1-0 in Dakar.

Senegal scored the solitary goal in the 19th minute.

Morocco had qualified for the last two World Cup Finals and had it beaten Senegal on Sunday, would have again sealed its berth for the Finals in Japan/Korea 2002.

Senegal's win has lifted the little nation into joint sec-



ond spot with Egypt, three points behind Group C leaders, Morocco who have 15 points.

Senegal who after four games still remains undefeated, and are on 12 points with Egypt, both still have a game in hand.

MEANWHILE in

Group A of the African qualifiers, Table leaders Cameroun has become the first nation to qualify for the World Cup Finals next year in Japan/Korea.



Joe Cachia: Chairman of the League champions.

Cameroun from its eight games amassed an unassailable lead of 19 points, edging out second placed Angola, (who has one game left to play), currently by a massive 7 points.

In its eight games the Camerouns suffered just one loss and had one draw, scoring 14 goals in the process and conceding just four.

Others in the Group, Zambia, Togo and Libya still have games to play but have no hope of catching the runaway Camerouns.

BALGOWNIE

RANGERS SOCCER CLUB this Friday will be staging a Sportsman's Dinner at the Fraternity and Recreation Bowling Club in Fairy



By John Economos

Meadow on the South Coast of NSW.

Guest speaker is expected to be former Australian World Cup captain, John Warren.

Another special guest at the Dinner will be former Australian World Cup defender, Dougie Utjesenovic.

The Balgownie Club, coached this season by former Wollongong Wolves' great, Jock Morlando, was this season promoted into the First division of the Illawarra Soccer League.

The Balgownie Soccer Club, together with Granville, Sydney, and formed in the late



Balgownie Rangers Soccer Club

1800s, are the two oldest Soccer clubs still in existence in Australia.

Some tickets for Friday nights Sportsman's Dinner which kicks off at 7.30 pm, are still available and may be purchased by calling Balgownie's President, Mr Mario Vescio on 02-4285 5737 or the Club's Secretary, Leo Piorro on 02-4226 6204.



Dougie Utjesenovic: Former Australian World Cup defender.

THE 12 nation and histor-

ical Copa America that's currently being played in Colombia and which is split into three Groups, sees the once mighty Brasil with one win from two games, having defeated Peru 2-0 early yesterday morning, in Group B, following her shock 1-0 loss late last week to Mexico.

Once thought of as an impossibility, today Brasil looms more likely as Australia's possible opponent come November in our last two World Cup qualifying hurdles.

Game after game since the last World Cup, Brasil with almost monotonous regularity, has not failed to disappoint its vast fanatical and religiously believing followers.

What is wrong?

What's happened to the record four times World Champions?

Has Brasil's shattering loss in the last World Cup Final to France still having a haunting effect?

If one knew what is wrong with Brasil today, one could earn an absolute fortune.

How would you rate the following factors could be contributing negatively to Brasil's alarming form over the past two years?

a) Since the last World Cup, Brasil has had four national managers.

b) Today almost every Brazilian national first team player, is playing in Europe.

c) Have Brazilian players lost their true and unique flair?

d) Have they become too 'Europeanised' and have lost their traditional colour and unpredictability?

e) Today Brasil does not have young and fully fit Bebetsos, Romarios, Ronaldos.

f) Are today's Brasilians playing in Europe being over-flogged with crammed playing calendars?

g) Who is Brasil's 'team-driver' today?

By that we mean, where is a Dunga in Brasil's team?

For years Dunga was Brasil's 'driver' and 'architect' from centre-pitch.

Almost everything started with the white-haired, hard as nails, midfield general, Dunga.

h) Has Brasil finally lost all of its traditional confidence and its legendary authority in the international arenas?

h) Have all of Brasil's opposing nations, vastly improved over the past two or so years?

i) Is it possible that a combination of all, or most, of the above factors have blended to culminate into produc-

Farina MUST become the only coach on record to have ever stopped Brasil from making an appearance to any World Cup Finals ever played.

Rod Macqueen last Saturday night in Sydney, made history for Australian Rugby Union by defeating the Lions in a series.

To be Frank, Farina come November, may have to emu-



DUNGA: The player that today could fix Brasil.

ing a less than lethal Brasil?

Either way, the previously pathetic possibility of Brasil becoming Australia's final World Cup qualifying opponent come November, seems to be slowly but surely, now looming as a definite threat.

And do you know what that means?

Simply two things.

The first, Australia's national manager, Frank Farina, must find a way to get Australia into Japan/Korea with victory, over Brasil.

Secondly, Farina will be forced to make history in the World Game by achieving a most daunting feat.

late Macqueen's feat.

In Eales, Gegan, Harrison, Burke, Smith etc, Macqueen was 'hugely equipped with the super quality 'cattle' to be able to pull it off.

Farina has quality 'cattle' in the Schwarzers, Vidmars, Emertons, Okons and the Vidukas to do the same.

Frank. Quickly settle on a 'set unit' now, because Brasil no longer is an 'unlikely opponent'.

Fear the worst and be prepared.

Should it be some sort of a consolation, at least there will be no Dunga you will have to deal with.



SYDNEY UNITED YOUTH & COLTS TRIALS

Interested players are invited to trial:

DATE: Sunday 22nd July 2001
VENUE: Bossley Park High School
PRAIRIE VALE ROAD, BOSSLEY PARK
TIME: 10AM

*Eligible players
need to be born no earlier than January 1983*

For more information contact:
Sydney United Soccer Club
223-227 Edensor Road
EDENSOR PARK NSW 2176
Phone: 9823 6418 • Fax: 9610 7925

Ivanisevic to Swap Racquet for Soccer Boots

By Arvind Hickman

Tennis star Goran Ivanisevic could fulfill a lifelong dream by playing top-flight football next season with Croatian champions Hajduk Split.

The move would

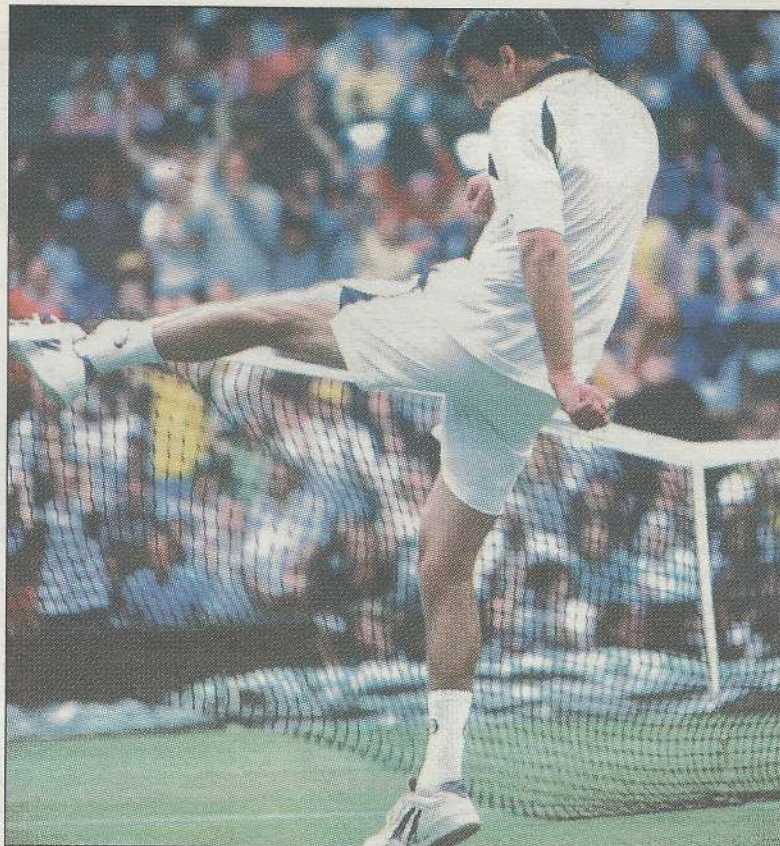
become the biggest sports swap since Michael Jordan famously left basketball to play baseball for the Chicago White Sox.

Ivanisevic has often shown some football talent with his amusing juggling acts during tennis games and Split Coach

Nenad Gracan believes he has what it takes.

"I know it is his big wish and he deserves to have it fulfilled. Ivanisevic likes football and the ability that he has demonstrated has often been close to professional level," he said.

"I have asked him to



come to training and promised him that he will be in the team for the game against Dinamo Zagreb."

Ivanisevic recently won Wimbledon after beating Pat Rafter in a five set thriller.

The 29-year-old has already been included in Hajduk's squad for the upcoming campaign and will wear the number 213 shirt, after the number of aces he served during this years Wimbledon triumph.

• TARGET PRACTICE: Ivanisevic takes aim at the net in anger at the Wimbledon final. He plans to put his feel into better use by playing for his hometown club, Split FC.

SOCCER WOMAN BY JANENE MAR

MATILDAS GO DOWN IN JAPAN

Fast, fit and physical, FC Bezeza outpointed an experimental Matildas 4-0 at Tokyo Stadium on Sunday.

A hat-trick from Japan striker Miyuki Izumi, who had four national team mates in the Bezeza eleven, put the Matildas to the sword by half time. A goal from Yayoi Kobayashi four minutes after the break, combined with the sweltering 40 degree heat, gave the Matildas no hope of any meaningful recovery.

The screams following teen-idol Gank's rendition of the Japan national anthem had barely subsided when the home team squandered two early chances in front of goal. Unnecessary fouls at the back gave the match hardened Bezeza 'too many set pieces in inviting positions.

Able to push bodies forward, Bezeza took the lead after 11 minutes when a block tackle in the six yard box squeezed the ball into the path of Izumi who rifled the opening goal. That lead was doubled five minutes later when a cut back from Kobayashi found Izumi surging, and the Matildas ball watching, in front of goal.

The Matildas brightest moments of the game followed; Katie Gill intelligently slipped behind her markers but failed to meet a cross swept in by Kate McShea, before Stacey Stocco curled a measured shot wide of the far post with the goalkeeper beaten. Stocco was the

Matildas busiest and most enterprising player of the half.

The match was decided in the 29th minute when Bezeza, swept forward by the referee's almost mechanical awarding of fouls, were able to curl a ball between the overworked Matildas defence. The livewire Izumi steamed a volley into the path of goalkeeper Claire Nicholls whose reflex parry only succeeded in putting the ball back at the feet of the marauding striker.

Matildas caretaker Adrian Santrac said, "Bezeza played to the conditions particularly well. The scoreline will disappoint the players but the match and the tour has provided a wonderful experience for a large number of younger and inexperienced players."

Stocco's first half was impressive while fellow debutante Emma Davison underlined her potential before leaving the field mid way through the second half

with heat exhaustion. Santrac rang the changes from half time with the six allowed substitutes each gaining valuable experience.

The Matildas are expected to finalise the National Coach position early next month.

AUSTRALIA (3-4-2-1), Nicholls (Trimboli), Davison (Neilson), Tann-Darby, Salisbury, McShea, Forman, Rockall (Nolan), Garriock (Ingles), Stocco, Mann (Halfpenny), Gill (Carney).



April Mann: Featured prominently against Japan.



• Bonecrushing action recorded between Sweden and Norway at the just-ended European womens' soccer championship, in Germany.

Young Matildas start World Cup build up

The Young Matildas (the National Youth Team) kick off their Youth World Cup campaign in earnest next month with a four-team international tournament in the NSW Central Coast region.

Recently-appointed

National Youth Coach Mike Mulvey will lead his charges in match play against the senior National Teams of Singapore and Vietnam, plus the NSW Institute of Sport outfit.

Mulvey, currently in Japan as part of the Matildas' 'overseas camp', will name his team soon

after his return. Four of the new players in Japan — Emma Davison, Katie Gill, Amber Neilson, and Stacey Stocco — are eligible for the Under 19 World Youth Championship, and along with Olympian Kate McShea, are set to play a key role in the Young Matildas' campaign.

Both Singapore and Vietnam make their visit 'downunder' for their first ever games against an Australian women's team. In preparations for the South-East Asian Games in September and the Asian Championships in December, the two nations will present an intriguing challenge for the Young Matildas.

In growing synergy with Schoolgirls Soccer, the tournament will be conducted concurrently with the Australian Secondary Schools Soccer Championships in Gosford, and will present a real showcase of the best young talent from around the country.

Warren Fisher, Chief Executive of Women's

Soccer Australia, said, "The staging of an international tournament side by side with a major event like the Australian Secondary Schools Soccer Championships reflects a close partnership between school sport and Women's Soccer Australia."

He added, "This partnership can lead soccer to becoming the most popular participation sport for girls at school level in Australia, as it is now in most parts of the world."

The international event kicks off 5 August with games to be played at Plum Park at the end of the day's Schoolgirl fixtures, with other-matches, including the playoffs on 11 August, to be held at North Power Stadium.

Draws for International Tourney (Gosford NSW)

Sun 5 August 2001

Plum Park Vietnam v NSWIS
Plum Park Young Matildas v Singapore

Tue 7 August 2001

Plum Park Singapore v Vietnam
North Power Stadium Young Matildas v NSWIS

Thu 9 August 2001

Plum Park Singapore v NSWIS
North Power Stadium Young Matildas v Vietnam

Sat 11 August 2001

North Power Stadium Playoff 3rd v 4th
North Power Stadium Playoff 1st v 2nd

AGM reveals huge losses at South

By Bert van Bedaf

During a sometimes rowdy annual general meeting, attended by some 600 members, South Melbourne revealed a deficit of nearly \$700,000.

It was a considerable downward spiral from the previous year, when the club recorded a surplus of nearly \$700,000, aided by the \$3.8 million received from FIFA for last year's participation in the world cup for clubs.

It means that within two years, the club has suffered a financial setback of almost \$1.4 million. "That is why I have stepped out of the committee," said vice-president Panos Margaritis.

Margaritis heads the New South reform ticket and will challenge president George Vasilopoulos for the presidency, if elected on Sunday. "I will be standing against him," Margaritis said.

Outlays for the year ending June 30, 2000 were \$1,952,440-00 and income at \$2,624,899-00, giving a net profit of \$672,459-00, according to figures flashed on to a projection screen.

The profit and loss account for the year ending June 30, 2001, showed income of \$2,291,317-00 and outlays of \$2,990,042-00, giving a net loss of \$698,725-00. South spent \$1,841,428-00 on the team last season.

Match attendance was up from 6,500 to 8,000 last season, but South's other vice-president Nick Maikouris conceded that the figure included about 3,000 free tickets.

Maikouris outlined the season on behalf of president George Vasilopoulos.

Key objectives, he said, were the Kids U12 program (Trimmers club), raising support in the surrounding (Port

Phillip) district, promoting the club on youth radio and to the broader soccer community.

He also highlighted the Aussie Rules bias in Melbourne and the adverse publicity concerning the riot at Melbourne Knights after a finals match against Perth Glory last season.

"There is an obvious AFL bias. We get it rammed down our throats and it is difficult to get the soccer message across," Maikouris said.

"Then there was the adverse publicity following the situation at the Knights. It destroyed our (marketing and promotion) investment," he said.

The meeting turned vocal when Vasilopoulos refused to reveal whether he had voted for Tony Labbozzetta or Victorian board member Joe Brondolino during the bruising election for Soccer Australia chairman last February.

Yet, it is common knowledge and was publicly stated that South Melbourne and Melbourne Knights had not voted for Brondolino, thus handing the chairmanship to Labbozzetta.

South Melbourne's elections are on Sunday, June 22 at Bob Jane Stadium.



George Vasilopoulos: South Melbourne under-pressure president.



ONCE UPON A TIME: L-R Massimo Muroccca, youth team player; Con Boutsianis, George Vasilopoulos, club president; ex-coach Mickey Petersen and Michael Petkovic at the NSL Awards Gala Night, recently. Massive players-coach exodus has since hit the club, while an attempt is also being launched to wrest control of its affairs from the present management.

New South launches leadership bid



By Bert van Bedaf

The recent coach-and-player exodus at national soccer league club South Melbourne could not have come at a better time for the reform group New South, who showed its collective face a week ago at the Victorian Club, high up on the 41st floor of the Rialto, Melbourne's tallest tower block.

After the defection of (coach) Mike Petersen to New Zealand rival Football Kingz, the floodgates have opened at the lakeside club.

Wingman Goran Lozanovski left for German club Alemannia Aachen, Defender/midfielder Simon Colosimo chose for English first division club Manchester City, top strikers Andy Vlahos and Con Boutsianis have followed Petersen to Auckland and goal keeper Michael Petkovic has signed a three-month trial with leading Norwegian side Lillestrom, where he joins Soccerroo striker Clayton Zane. A full transfer could net South \$1 million to wipe out its reported debt.

Only a fortnight ago, club supporters voted Boutsianis

their most-popular player, forgiving the fact a few months ago the gifted player had pleaded guilty to his involvement in a 1998 robbery in Melbourne, was fined \$20,000 and put on a two-year good behavior bond.

Revelations of a reportedly near million-dollar debt at South also has added to the New South push — and the fact that the club has held no general elections for official positions since 1988.

The reform push was given extra prominence since current vice-president and club sponsor Panos Margaritis is leading the charge. He will be challenging George Vasilopoulos, the club's president for the last 12 years, for the top position at the elections on Sunday (July 22).

Owner of a granite and marble importing and distribution company, Margaritis is a softly spoken individual who joined South in 1997 and quickly rose to be vice-president.

By his own reckoning he has poured \$200,000 into South during those three years and he believes it is time for a new approach at Melbourne's most successful soccer club.

"There's not been an election at the club for 13 years. We need to hear the voice of people of the club. That is why we are doing this. For the good of South," Margaritis said.

Also on the New South ticket are former player George Campbell, sitting board members Andrew Dye, Leo Athanasakis, Peter Kartsidimas, Manny Panourakis, Jeff Lambadaridis and board observer Phil

Diamataris, who is also media spokesman for sister club and minor premier Port Melbourne in the Victorian Premier League.

"We have developed a comprehensive three-year plan for South's future success. We're offering sound financial management, improved member benefits (South has 2,500 members), improved stadium facilities, a commitment to the youth academy and the development of local players and a greater input by members into the club's operations and future direction," Diamataris said at the reform group's

launch.

A burning question for the group (and members) is what has happened to South's world cup for clubs windfall of \$3.8 million, received from FIFA (soccer's world organising body) after the club's involvement in the tournament last year?

"We did not capitalise on the (financial) opportunity. We did not secure the club's future (with the funds). The indications are there is a substantial loss," Athanasakis said.

Vasilopoulos is expected to fight the reform group.

"I've got a lot of fight in

me. If I'd want to go, I want the members to be comfortable for me to walk away. I need people to take over the club who can offer stability, growth and success like we've had over the last 15 years," Vasilopoulos said last week in ABSW.

"If somebody comes up to me with a formula and said 'I'm prepared to take over this responsibility, with the (same) dedication and commitment', my work is done. But these people cannot tell me anything new," he said.

...ELECTIONS SLATED FOR SUNDAY

By Bert van Bedaf

South Melbourne will veer into selection mode next week, when members get the chance to vote for new office bearers for the first time in 13 years.

In an emotional speech, president George Vasilopoulos declared all board positions vacant, including his own, and called for nominations.

Members Nick Sagiakos and Bill Giorganis resigned from the board and won't stand again. Vasilopoulos announced there would be 13 candidates backing his re-election ticket, but did not reveal their names.

The New South reform group will provide the opposing ticket, headed by (outgoing vice-president) Panos Margaritis and Nick Zervos. The group counts seven existing board mem-

bers among its ranks.

Close to tears, Vasilopoulos put his heart on his sleeve during an emotional and passionate speech at the club's annual general meeting last Sunday.

"I've joined this club very young. My aim from day one was no other than to do and be what we have done. There is no other. I've no other benefits.

I've lost my job in the bank after 28 years. My health is still suffering and I haven't seen (much of) my kids. My older boy is 18. I've only seen him when he was about eight.

"To come to this stadium and see a full stadium. That is my reward to see a full stadium and see our club winning.

"I know I say 'I a lot and I know I'm at fault there. I don't mean to do it. I get emotional and that's what drives me, the passion I have for this

club. You who know me well, know that what I say is true. For others, I apologise. I lack one thing in my life and that is to pick up the 'phone and communicate with people and tell them exactly how I feel. I do sincerely apologise to you.

"I'm grateful again for giving me this opportunity for the last 15 years to be your club president. It has been the biggest honor for me and I will never forget it whatever happens in the future."

Vasilopoulos told the packed function room at Bob Jane stadium all positions were up for re-election.

"At the close of this AGM, my board and I will resign our positions. We'll step down. We're doing it in good faith for the forward thinking and the democracy that we as Greeks invented," Vasilopoulos said.

"Today in my possession, I have 13 nominations for the 15 board positions. So we hereby accept these nominations. It looks like there will be two tickets. There are 15 on each and next Sunday you'll have to right

to come and chose your own board to take this club forward.

Pressured by the reformers, Vasilopoulos foreshadowed changes to the club's constitution, which is 40 years old, as he mounted his re-election bid.

"The constitution, like this club, has to go forward. The constitution was done by our late president Sam Papisavas. It goes back to 1950-59.

We're going to get a group of people together to bring up that constitution and we'll be willing to make a lot of changes. We are going to fix up this constitution. It is confusing and we'll make it simple," Vasilopoulos said.

"We have made a lot of changes (over the years) but we're also mindful not to lose you, our base, and build on this and bring it together with us. That is my dream to do this.

"We are asking for your continued support for the future. We'll always be open and flexible to support people who want to make the right changes at the right time for club," he said.



Letters to the Editor

Sydney can match MCG

Dear Sir,

There are a lot of arguments raging as to which City should host the World Cup qualifier in November, Sydney or Melbourne.

As everyone knows whether its held in either City it will be a sellout with a maximum capacity crowd attending, but as a neutral observer from Queensland, I think that all things being equal that it comes down to Sydney.

To win deserves it more. Without going into all the reasons why, I reckon it should be Sydney. One thing I will say though is that even though the MCG now has a larger capacity than Stadium Australia has (18,000 more seats), Soccer Australia would make twice or even three times as much money from ticket sale prices in Sydney rather than Melbourne, due to a much higher demand.

That of course won't matter that much if we qualify for next year's World Cup, but if we don't it's millions of dollars down the drain, especially if we play Brazil with a fully fit Ronaldo in their side.

It seems everyone has forgotten the game against Argentina in 1993 at the SFS, where 200,000 tickets could have been sold if we had a stadium big enough, at twice the price that they sold for.

The presence of Diego Maradona made sure of that.

Dominic Scullino,
Nerang, Qld.



Stadium Australia: Denied the chance to host Socceroos' November World Cup qualifiers.

Melbourne's flimsy love of Soccer

Dear Sir,

It is interesting that someone from Newcastle has come to the defence of Melbourne as a world cup venue. I wonder how many Novocastrians are intending to take a 15 hour bus trip to Melbourne in November both ways.

I know many would have gladly journeyed to Sydney had the match been played there.

If Mr McAteer found good cheap accommodation in 1997 I hope he can do it again in November but I doubt it.

I was also in Melbourne in 1997 for the Iran match and it was true that Melbourne people momentarily embraced Soccer on a one off basis.

This November the same thing will happen again on a

bigger scale but this will not alter the fact that Melbournians are indifferent to Soccer.

The problems with Stadium Australia are nothing that cannot be fixed, and are not an excuse for favouring the MCG.

Mr McAteer's sneering dismissal of the 42,000 people who attended the NZ match should be considered in the light that this match played in Melbourne would have drawn little more than 10,000 people if that.

Everything Mr McAteer has stated in his letter has only confirmed that my argument in favour of Stadium Australia was valid.

R. Melor,
Bondi, NSW.



Craig Moore: Unwarranted attack on Farina's squad policy.

Cosmos, Strikers can prove SA wrong

Dear Sir,

With the battle for reinstatement now won, it will be interesting to see if these clubs have the will and passion to overcome the doubts surrounding their existence and viability by turning out good results and attracting the fans to their games.

I believe Soccer Australia may have lost the first battle over its restructuring crusade, it may yet laugh last if Brisbane Cosmos and Cosmos Strikers fail to turn around their fortunes and keep up the momentum of their

return to the NSL. After all the bad blood and verbal barbs of the past few months, responsibility now lies with both clubs to convince all and sundry of their claims of being worthy participants in the NSL.

True, both Brisbane and Canberra hail from a disadvantaged base in terms of crowd support, media coverage and community support, unlike a hugely successful example such as Perth Glory. Nonetheless, I think they still deserve some encouragement and support from their immediate communities and Australians at large cos of the

determination demonstrated by the people involved to keep both clubs afloat at all cost.

Clubs like three year-old Northern Spirit and Football Kingz have successfully overcome initial public apathy to their formation, to build a support-base and bolster their followership over the years. It is up to Cosmos and Strikers to lift their game and attract the much-needed fans to the stands. Soccer Australia is obviously relying on natural hatred to eventually see off those clubs that are supposedly painting the league in a bad light.

Sooner or later, no matter how much sponsorship or money in the bank these two clubs have at present, it will not keep them viable if the terraces remain empty at games.

Credit must go to Steve Dozspot of Soccer Canberra at this stage, for his tenacity and doggedness in taking on the might of SA and hanging in their to see that the struggle was won. Along with the Cosmos chairman, Danny Moulis, they fought long and hard all the way and even when there appeared to be no hope for reconsideration, they

never wavered.

Brisbane and Canberra have been thrown a lifeline. It's up to them to make sure they don't hang themselves with it.

In doing so they need to completely reinvent themselves rather than a superficial repackaging. If the fans don't see something exciting they will have then thrown away

the chance to prove SA wrong in culling them. It's heartening to see that the Spirit is moving in the right direction now in their marketing plans for next season.

This is a second, crucial chance both clubs cannot afford to let slip away.

Mehmet Schultz,
Newell, Qld.

OF RABBITOHS, COSMOS AND STRIKERS

Dear Sir,

Once again, Soccer Australia have managed to make themselves look stupid and ill-focussed following the misconceived decision to cull Canberra Cosmos and Brisbane Strikers from the NSL. I'll very much like to draw parallels between this episode and the historic return of the much-loved Rabbitohs to the NSL.

In both instances, greed and the influence of so-called corporate sponsors influenced the initial decisions to exclude some teams from the separate comps in the name of 'reorganisation'. News Limited sealed (or almost) South Sydney's fate, while the faceless International

Entertainment Corporation inflicted the same treatment on Strikers and Cosmos under the guise of a suspicious assessment formula.

In a nutshell, both of these corporate big-guns had their ways cos they were supposed to have entered into agreements with NRL and Soccer Australia, respectively to inject more money into the various leagues to make them more glamorous and bring the fans pouring into the stands.

While some clubs such as the Illawarra Steelers were forced into unwelcome mergers, in the NSL, it was simply a case of show us your money if you wanted to remain in the league. It was the inability of

Dear Sir,

It's quite disappointing to read Socceroos' defender Craig Moore hit out at Frank Farina for "being left out in a recent Socceroo game". What hogwash!

Moore even went ahead to challenge Farina by saying that he didn't believe in the rotation system often adopted by Farina. I think it suggests a high degree of indiscipline on

the part of Moore to openly attack Farina in this manner. At 24 years of age and still with a long way to go in his international career, Moore may unconsciously be burning his bridges.

Apart from captain Paul Okon, I don't think any single player has an exclusive right to a starting shirt. Farina has tried his utmost to give everybody a chance right through

the start of the World Cup qualifying series in Coffs Harbour, up to the two-legged affair against New Zealand. The best men for the job always got Farina's nod. He should not be seen to dance to anyone's tune or else, he would be digging his own grave for failure. Which is also why I think it is even more tragic if it was true, as Moore claimed, that Farina apologised to him over the selection process. Unbelievable!

At his Scottish club, Glasgow Rangers, I know Moore was never a regular in the starting team. Why hasn't he ever taken a swipe at Dick Advocaat? I'm sure he knows the consequences would not be very pleasant.

This kind of outburst from Moore will merely injure team spirit and create unnecessary tension in the team, at a time when 100% commitment is required to qualify for the World Cup.

I wonder what Moore would except Hayden Foxe to say, if he carries on whingeing in this manner. Or is he going to tell us now that playing in the Scottish league is more prestigious than the English premiership? Definitely not.

Miles O'Shane
Jane Brook, WA.



OFF THE CROSSBAR



By Allan Crisp

KIWI PINS HOPES ON SOCCEROO

New Zealander Jeff Campbell is keeping his fingers crossed that former Australian captain Aurelio Vidmar will agree to renew his contract with Adelaide City Force.

Campbell has a vested interest in Vidmar's future because the 21-year old Kiwi international has left the Auckland Kingz to continue his burgeoning career with the Force.

"I certainly hope that Aurelio stays with Adelaide because I'm looking forward to playing and training with him," Campbell said "I'm sure that I could learn a lot from such an experienced player as he undoubtedly is."

Midfielder Campbell has confirmed his talent by representing New Zealand at senior, Under23 and Under20 levels, racking up 10 caps for the All Whites senior squad.

The eager young player is the first Kiwi international to suit up for the Force since Glenn Dods played for City in the 1970's.

Campbell also has the distinction of being the first Force signing for the 2001/2002 season.

Campbell explained to ABSW that his agent and Force coach Zoran Matic had virtually dead-heated in making approaches for his services.

"My agent spoke to my brother about the prospect of my moving to Adelaide at about the same time that Zoran had been trying to contact me," Campbell said.

"When we played the Kingz last season he (Campbell) gave us more problems than anyone else," Matic said.

"We targeted him from the start and it's pleasing to know he's now an Adelaide City player. He will give us more steel in the midfield."

Auckland-born Campbell played 11 games for the Kingz in their inaugural NSL season, scoring one goal. He played 14 games and netted two goals last season.

Campbell was forced out of the World Cup qualifiers against the Socceroos because of a pelvis injury, but has fully recovered and is looking towards arriving in Adelaide early next month.

Meanwhile, Matic, whose team last season missed a spot in the NSL finals play-offs for the first time in 12 seasons, plans to recruit two more NSL hardened players for the new campaign.

"That should complete our recruiting, but the door is open to other players we feel could benefit our team," Matic said.

Matic is resigned to losing former Carlton midfielder David Terminello, who has asked to leave six months after returning to City on a three-year contract.

Ex-Youth Socceroo Kosta Salapasis is unlikely to again wear the black and white vertical stripes of Adelaide City after indicating he wants to pursue another European contract.

Matic is encouraged by the progress made by his younger brigade, Scott Tunbridge, Lucas Pantelis, Ian Fyfe, Louis Brain, Kristian Rees, Aaron Goulding, Ivan Karlovic, Mario Karlovic, Shane Thompson, Nick Budin and Owen Filewood.

And he is looking beyond that talented group towards tender teens, Niall Fay, Adriano Pellegrino and Luke Deegan, who already have progressed to Premier League level.



David Terminello: Also leaving Adelaide City Force.

player has been appointed coach of the Canberra Cosmos NSL team?

The answer given by the daring duo was, "Milan Ivanovic" a solution that sent the latter's club officials from White City Woodville into a mild state of panic.

It was of course an acceptable error since there is a remarkable similarity between Milan Ivanovic and Canberra Cosmos's mentor Milan Milovavovic. Granted the names are not really "miles" apart.

CRITICAL CON

Adelaide has a fanatical soccer supporter who, because of his dedicated approach towards his beloved sport, is reaching celebrity status in the local media.

"Con of Athelstone" leaves no radio station untapped and no newspaper, local or national, is spared as he wages his crusade against the perceived perpetrators of his chosen sport.

He spreads his message far and wide by distributing copies of published soccer articles accompanied by cutting remarks in his own handwriting.

Con revels in taking on officials during radio talk back segments and often reminds commentators that many of his predictions have eventually risen to the surface of reality.

His pull-no-punches approach is especially harsh on the subject of Australian television coverage of soccer and he applauds ALP Senator Chris Schacht's call for an independent inquiry into the sport.

Some of Con's recent comments are - "If Soccer Australia people are part-timers, that's hard and they'll make mistakes."

"If some are full-time, then they are chumps, who have humiliated the game in front of the mainstream public."

On the subject of Marconi's financial plight, Con says, "Hey! Maybe a blessing if they go bust. Mainstreamers still regard 'Marconi' as the last ethnic name left in the NSL."

"If Marconi go under, and Soccer Australia boot out NZ in 2002 (the Kiwi thing was just a fashion in ARL with the rugby mob) then we might see a second lot from Perth."

"We might also see if Makris can pry the people of Elizabeth, Salisbury, Para Hills and Modbury away from their comfy Pay TV and watching English Premier League so they can travel nearly 40 kms to the White Hindmarsh Elephant and bring their thousands of soccer playing AFL/SANFL-watching kids with them."

Con is equally forthright on recent decisions, asking, "Why have France and (say) Colombia at the MCG within a fortnight of each other? Why not one game in Sydney?"

And a parting shot from caustic critic Con, "Why waste breath on the National Soccer League?" "It's the moribund, discredited, humiliated, embarrassed, under funded, under promoted, no TV, feeder league to Europe."

Allan Crisp can be heard on the SRPH (1197) Marshall Thompson Homes Breakfast Soccer Show each Tuesday from 7am-8.30am, along with Croydon Kings coach Phil Scardigno, Peter Millar, The Advertiser soccer writer Meno Toutsidis and producer Robbie Popplestone. And SRPH this Sabbath welcomes former Australian international John Perin home from his overseas jaunt for its SOS Soccer On Sunday program when he will be joined by Millar and Crisp from 8.30am-9.30am. The SOS show presents the latest local, interstate and overseas information along with relevant interviews.

MIDNIGHT OIL

The South Australian Soccer Federation disciplinary committee has been burning the midnight oil as it investigates the ugly incident which occurred after the Premier League game between Modbury Jets and Port Lion Pirates at Modbury's Ridgehaven ground on Friday, June 29.

Preliminary investigations revealed that officials and players of both clubs should answer charges relating to the post-match disturbance.

Charges are continuing to be answered this week, with the findings and resultant penalties not expected to be finalised until next week.

BIG MITCH COMES HOME

Parramatta Power coach David Mitchell last week returned to his home town Adelaide to revisit family and seek potential signings for the new season.



David Mitchell: Combining Adelaide for Parramatta new signing.

Big Mitch, who played his first senior soccer with Enfield Victoria in the 1970's, and who first graced the NSL scene with Adelaide City, spoke with Force captain Aurelio Vidmar and also sounded out Blue Eagles goal ace Michael Brooks.

Mitchell already had snapped up young Enfield Falcons goalkeeper Andrew Carmen, but emphasised that his latest quest was to recruit strikers.

"Yes, my main focus at this time is on strikers," Mitchell said. I had a quick chat with Michael Brooks because I believe he would do well up here.

"But, with a lot of the club's money tied up, one of the major considerations is the cost of relocating players and their families from interstate."

MIXING THEIR MILO

Adelaide Radio 5AA's sporting gurus Ken Cunningham and Graham Cornes mixed their Milos one night last week when they asked this quiz question - "Which former Adelaide City



Kosta Salapasis: Quitting Adelaide City Force in search of Euro club.

Dulwich Hill seek FC Porto Link-Up

New South Wales Winter Super League club, Dulwich Hill, has officially approached

Portuguese soccer giants, FC Porto, for a commercial arrangement between the two parties.

Dulwich President Duarte Martins, while not stating the details that had been discussed over the bargaining table, did confirm that he had travelled to Portugal to kick-off proceedings.

"Dulwich Hill Football Club wrote to FC Porto about four months ago and in May, I was invited to spend two days in the town of Porto, where club officials took me on a tour of their stadium, training venue and also their youth academy."

"We will submit a propos-

al to FC Porto by the end of July and await their reply.

"Dulwich Hill is definitely on the path to affiliating with a professional club in Portugal.

Our preference is FC Porto, but it could also be one of other major clubs in that country."

In New South Wales, English premier clubsides West Ham United and Manchester United have youth academies run by Blacktown City Demons and Parramatta Melita Eagles respectively.

In related NSW league developments, Dulwich Hill play their rescheduled Round 14 NSW Winter Super League game against Fairfield Bulls at Jensen Park (Sefton) on the 26th of July with kick-off slated for 7.30pm.



South Australia

Premier League Results

ROUND 16

PREMIER LEAGUE

Adelaide City (Fyfe, Saraceno)	2	Modbury Jets (Isaacson, Harris)	2
Campbelltown	0	Blue Eagles (Brooks 2, Arnone 2, Sergi)	5
White City Woodville (McMillan)	1	Port Lion (Maio)	1
Metro Stars (Perrone)	1	Modbury Jets (Hassell)	1
Croydon Kings (S. Barbaro 2, Pirone 2)	4	Port Pirie Spirit	0
Raiders	0	Olympic FC (Tsavavoutas, Demortzidis, Tsoukalas)	3
Playford Patriots (Radford)	1	Adelaide City	0

STATE LEAGUE

Hills Hawks (Huff, Slater)	2	Birkalla (Westervelt 2, McGregor 2, Tsekis)	5
Seaford Surfers (Atkins)	1	Cobras (Bilandzic, P. Harpas, Lara)	3
Northern Demons (Musci)	1	Salisbury Apaches (Robson)	1
Panthers (Mather, S. Price)	2	Enfield Falcons (Matire)	1
Cumberland Foxes (Patterson 2, Stuart, tog)	4	Noarlunga Bulldogs	0
Para Hills Knights (Brenton 3)	3	Western Strikers (Perotta)	1

ROUND 17

PREMIER LEAGUE

SATURDAY, JULY 21

Blue Eagles v Raiders
Adelaide City v Metro Stars
Modbury Jets v White City Woodville
Port Lion v Campbelltown City
Olympic FC v Croydon Kings
Port Pirie Spirit v Playford Patriots

STATE LEAGUE

Noarlunga Bulldogs v Panthers
Western Strikers v Northern Demons
Salisbury Apaches v Seaford Surfers
Cobras v Hills Hawks
Birkalla v Cumberland Foxes
Enfield Falcons v Para Hills Knights

Colosimo returns home as Man City move hangs in the balance

English club, Manchester City have rubbished reports suggesting that a deal aimed at taking South Melbourne defender, Simon Colosimo to Maine Road has collapsed, saying they are untrue.

There are however doubts surrounding the genuine intentions of the English first division side following their relative ignorance about personal details of Colosimo. The club announced on its website that Colosimo plays for Melbourne Sharks and got married over the summer, which of course, are both incorrect.

Colosimo plays for South Melbourne after joining them from defunct Carlton, in a mid-season move and while he does have a girlfriend, he is not yet married.

Colosimo was in Manchester for three days last week before returning to Australia to tend to "personal business", according to a Manchester City spokesman. Colosimo is also facing

work permit eligibility problems since he has played only about a third of Australia's A internationals in the past two years.

British immigration laws stipulate that non-European Union players must have played at least 75 per cent of their countries full internationals in the past two years.

British tabloids last week speculated that 'he

may not be allowed back into the country because he does not have an EU passport and will struggle to get a work permit because of his limited international experience', although City's chief operating officer, Chris Bird, claims that this is not the case.

"We do not envisage any problems," he told the club's official website.

"We are expecting Simon to join us this week to finalise details of his move."

But officials of the English club said if they went ahead and signed Colosimo they did not envisage any problems.

"We're going through the paperwork now and we don't expect any work permit problems," the club's spokesman said. He vehemently denied newspaper reports that Colosimo was sent back home

because he did not have a work permit or a passport.

"He did have a passport," the spokesman said. "He was here for three days to inspect the facilities and meet some of the players."

He visited our new stadium and Maine Road where we play now, then went back to Sydney to do some personal business. That was always his plan.

"He will be back within seven to 10 days, when he will meet our manager Kevin

Keegan. We will progress talks with him then.

"Personal terms still have to be finalised, and we are under no pressure to sign him up straight away," Colosimo may however still require some help from Soccer Australia to vouch for his status in the national team considering the difficulties encountered last year by Hayden Foxe with his transfer to West Ham.

Colosimo will find it hard convincing British immigration officials to give him a permit, despite the support of Manchester City officials who have said they did not expect any problems.

The 22-year-old Aussie international is however being constantly portrayed in a rather unsavoury light in the British media.

More attention has been focussed on a nasty injury he sustained after a horrible tackle from Manchester United striker Andy Cole during a friendly clash with the Australian national side in 1999.



Simon Colosimo: Questions now hang over Manchester City transfer following immigration hurdles.

Cash-strapped Timorese turn on the heat

KANGA CUP LATEST



East Timor U14s Head Coach Ivan Cengic. Inset: L-R: East Timor Assistant coach Gaspar Quintao, Secretary of the East Timor FA, Francisco Amaro and Canberra Deakin Manager Bernie Lustica.



The East Timor U14s in their new tracksuits, last week in Canberra.

By Graham Cooke

They came with no uniforms, tracksuits or boots, but with unbridled enthusiasm and a passionate love of football — and late last week the team from East Timor were riding high in the Kanga Cup junior tournament, having won all six of their group games in the

under-14 boys competition.

It was not a promising beginning as the party of 22 players and officials arrived at Canberra Airport, most still in the t-shirts, shorts or jeans they had worn on leaving the tropical heat of Dili.

The weather in the Canberra may have been below freezing point, but the welcome could not have been warmer, and within 24 hours a variety of sponsors,

ranging from large companies and groups such as the Australian Federal Police, to individuals, had made sure all their material needs were met.

Free to concentrate on their football, the boys took the tournament by storm, beginning quietly enough with a 2-0 win over Belnorth Gold, but continuing with an 8-0 margin over Southern Tablelands, before beating

Sunshine Coast Churches 5-0, Galaxy 13-0, Belwest 3-1 and JSWA North 2-0.

During a reception for the visitors at the Canberra Deakin Club, coach Ivan Cengic outlined some of the difficulties suffered by the East Timorese during the Indonesian occupation.

"For most of them, football was the only thing they had," he said. "The football field was the only place they could meet and be themselves."

"I have been there seven months and it is not easy, but competitions like the Kanga Cup are so important, because it is only through them that we can develop fully professional players."

"There are players of huge potential on the island although some are being held back because they have been under-nourished, but we can fix that, and we will."

"I think the most impor-

tant thing about the East Timorese is that they play their game with flair and imagination. They are only a very small country, but it is not beyond the bounds of



possibility that they will come to dominate football in South-East Asia."

"One of the organis-

ers of the visit, George Lemon, paid tribute to the Canberra Deakin Club, which had provided food and accommodation for the party.

"Many of the Croatians originally came to this country because of the bad things which were then happening in their homeland, so they can appreciate what the East Timorese have been through," he said.

The secretary of the East Timorese Football Federation, Francisco Amaro, said his group had been overwhelmed by the hospitality and generosity of Canberra people.

\$10m Leeds' windfall sets Strikers abuzz

Resurgent Brisbane Strikers could pocket up to \$A10million if a deal to sell a majority share of the National Soccer League club to Premier League side Leeds United sails through in the near future.

A delegation of the club's topshots will jet out to England in a couple of weeks to continue further discussions with the Premier League club, that currently has four Australian players on their books.

Discussions had reached an advanced stage prior to the unfortunate culling of the Brisbane Strikers from the NSL in May, which put all the progress made with Leeds on hold. The circumstances surrounding the culling as well as the recent reinstatement of the club are clearly

influential in the long-awaited response from Leeds, which was confirmed by the Brisbane chairman Ross Melville.

Accordingly, he agreed that the deal was still a long way off preferring instead to stress that the involvement of Leeds with the Strikers, would greatly propel the growth and development of junior soccer in Queensland. "The importance is financial security which will allow us to put in a very good junior development program," he said.

This would give us a capacity no other state will have the ability of filling."

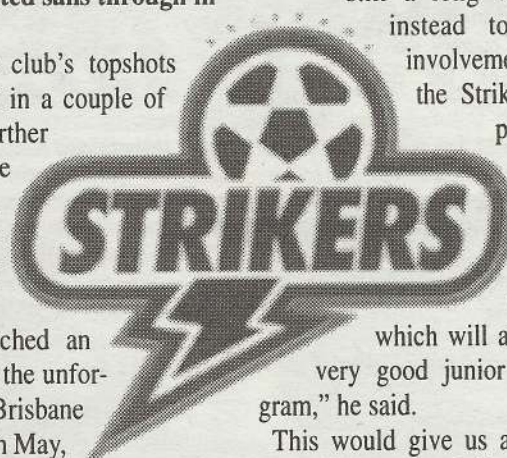
Meanwhile, Parmalat, one of the clubs' major sponsors, is on the lookout for an Ex-international from South America willing to

lace boots for the Strikers in next season's NSL competition.

Brazilian striker, Fernando Rech, who is now mentioned as one of the most-prolific imports to ever play in the NSL, starred for the Strikers under a similar agreement

through Parmalat and easily emerged as a success story in the last season

"There are no guarantees on that at this stage but we're hopeful of securing another player of the same calibre and strength," Melville added.



Cosmos offer 'Milan' new three-year deal

By Graham Cooke

Canberra Cosmos and Mike Milovanovic hope to come to an arrangement this week that will see the coach contracted to the club for the next three

years.

The deal would give the Cosmos some stability after a succession of team bosses that began with Mike Lyons in 1995 and continued through Branko Culina, Rale Rasic, Tony Brennan (caretaker) and Tom Sermanni.



Mike Milovanovic: On the verge of new Cosmos deal.

Milovanovic, who took over from Sermanni in January, had been given an initial contract only to the end of the season. Negotiations on a new deal were postponed while the Cosmos fought to reverse their expulsion from the National Soccer League.

The coach had reportedly wanted a long-term contract given that with little money to spend on new players, he would need time to develop young talent. That had been agreed but a further sticking point occurred over the salary package for the period.

The coach had a "productive" meeting with Cosmos chairman

Danny Moulis

during last

week. While

the club's

playing

ture was

onfirmed

ust over a

week ago,

there is no

room for compla-

cency. A settlement with the

coach must be speedily followed by negotiations with players, only two of whom are under contract. All this may delay the beginning of pre-season training, scheduled for tomorrow. Milovanovic will certainly not begin unless he has signed a contract, and with so few players committed to the club any sessions now would probably be pointless.

Two members of last season's staff, Jon Angelucci and Alex Castro, have already signed for other clubs, but Milovanovic will be keen to prevent the leakage of other experienced players, such as Con Anthopoulos and Hiroshi Miyazawa, given that replacements of the same quality are unlikely to be within the Cosmos' price range.

Juventus topple Deakin

By Graham Cooke

On a weekend where there were changes at both ends of the ACT Premiership, Canberra Deakin lost the leadership after being held to a 3-3 draw by Canberra Olympic, and Tuggeranong United moved off the bottom with their first win of the season, 3-0 against the University of Canberra.

Two goals from David Loric gave Tuggeranong their first success since the Federation Cup in pre-season as the club swapped places with the University on the table. It was a welcome respite for



Tony Brennan: University Coach
"We weren't good enough ..."

ACT PREMIERSHIP

coach David Plath, who had announced his resignation earlier in the season only to be talked out of it by both committee and players.

His reward came in a decisive spell just before half-time when Carlos Grande opened the scoring after a tangle in front of the University goal, with Loric adding number two five minutes later.

Loric's second, a few minutes into the second half, demonstrated the virtues of persistence. Put through by Carl Pideski, his first shot was blocked by goalkeeper Jamie Richardson. The ball rebounded to him and despite being on the ground he somehow got a boot to it, scooping it back into the net.

The University's chances were few and far between, a couple falling to Michael Percival who was off-target with both head and foot.

Plath paid tribute to veterans Peter Thompson, who was now assisting at training, and Alan Strachan who stepped back into the first team to aid the club and played for almost an hour, leaving the field only after the game was won.

"Alan has missed just two training sessions all year - and that includes pre-season," Plath said.

"We have a few players back from injury and I guess this is as good a time as any to find form, with a match against Canberra Deakin next week."

University coach Tony Brennan said it was a game between two ordinary teams in which Tuggeranong had proved themselves to be slightly less ordinary.

"We weren't good enough," he said. "We have some good players. But they are not clicking."



Steve Lazzari: Scored a hatrick for high-riding Gungahlin Juventus.

"I just don't have any answers."

Deakin appeared to be cruising as they went into a 2-0 lead against Olympic with goals from Eugenio Araya and Mladin Rogic, but a hat trick from Daniel Macor brought a dramatic reversal, and it was left to a late goal from Marko Perinovic to salvage a point.

Olympic coach Baz Giampaolo, who at 42 played for 55 minutes, said at 3-2 up his team should have killed the game as Deakin left holes at the back in their desperate search for an equaliser. "In the end they brought it off and all credit to them," he said.

Deakin's team boss Vlado Horvat said it had been a good, open game against worthy opponents who had shown the value of a settled squad. "It is not easy when everyone reserves their best efforts of the season for matches against us," he said.

That result allowed Gungahlin Juventus, 6-1 winners against Monaro, to take over the leadership of the competition by a point, having played one game more. The league's leading scorer, Steve Lazzari, netted a hat trick for Juventus and Ilija Prenzovski scored Monaro's solitary goal.

In the remaining game Capital City Suns beat Weston Creek Royals 3-0 with goals from Tony Aleksovski, Simon Evans and Pat Phommaseisy.

ACT PREMIERSHIP

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Gungahlin Juventus	10	8	0	2	37	10	24
Canberra Deakin	9	7	2	0	30	7	23
Capital City Suns	10	6	0	4	25	17	18
Belconnen United	9	5	0	4	20	13	15
Monaro	10	5	0	5	17	20	15
Canberra Olympic	9	4	2	3	22	15	14
Weston Creek Royals	10	2	0	8	11	44	6
Tuggeranong United	9	1	1	7	11	28	4
University of Canberra	8	1	1	6	9	27	4

Derby County Targets Aussie kid - sensations

English Premiership Club, Derby County is branching out in Australia to unearth some footballing wizards from Oz.

The Rams academy is teaming up with youth coaches in Victoria to identify and nurture talented young players.

Academy director John Peacock launched the partnership with Onside Academy — based at Victoria's Boxhill Junior Soccer Club.

"It's an exciting project that could see us not only benefit from blossoming young players in Australia, but also heighten the club's

profile out there," said John.

"Interest in football has increased dramatically over the past few years in Australia and it's great for Derby County to be teaming up with a group of professionals offering topclass

coaching to young players with potential who could one day be turning out for the Rams.

"At the Academy we love to see home-grown players coming through — and they remain our priority.

"Our hope is that a few years down the line we could supplement the British talent with one or two exceptional players from Australia."

There's help at hand for Onside Academy director John Kennedy if his team in Australia need to know what a player requires to cut it with the Rams.

Terry Hennessey was the Rams first £100,000 signing in 1970 and he, along with son Dean, is part of the team ensuring the club gets the pick of the Aussie crop.

Onside Academy's Richard Rudzki believes the groundbreaking partnership will reap rich rewards for the Rams.

"With a host of sides from U/7-U16's, we're in a great position to identify talent, develop it and be in a position to sit down with really special young players and offer them the opportunity of a scholarship with Derby," he said.

"And the scheme isn't just limited to Victoria.

With a network spanning much of Australia — and the development of a website supplying information online — we plan to be in touch with some of the

most promising young players the country has to offer, maybe the next Viduka or Kewell."



Con Blatsis: Unheralded Aussie star of Derby's junior team.



Jim Smith: Derby County coach who is poised to inject more young Australian talents to his side.

DAVID CARNEY: Living A Dream at Everton

Youth Profile

By Mark Stavroulakis

Seventeen-year-old David Carney is living a childhood dream. Growing up in a family that had soccer blood through and through, the Carney family loved their Everton.

As a youngster in Sydney's West, young Carney's dream was to one day play for Everton, and with through all the tough training and lessons taught by his mentor coaches, his dream looks to have come true. Young Carney started off his playing days as a raw 13-year-old at the NSW league side, Macarthur Rams.

Spending almost four seasons with the club, it was there people realized this young lad had a future in football.

"Playing for the Rams in the U13's-U14's was great as I was part of a brilliant team. We did well in the competition and I enjoyed every minute of it. The final two seasons at the Rams weren't as good. The team had changed drastically, and we were always getting beaten. The travelling got to my parents as well, but all in all, the Rams treated me well," said the young gun.

At the age of 15, Carney was signed by the NSWIS — a grooming-ground of sorts for many youngsters who have made it to bigger squads across Australia and Europe. "Spending the year at the ITC was brilliant.

Kelly Cross was a great coach who always had faith in me. He was the one that told me that I was ready for overseas. The facilities at the place were good as well. Training and playing against older lads really brought out the best in me," said the left-winger.

Through his successes at the ITC, a State NSW honor was presented to David, something he thrived on as a young 16-year-old. "Playing for NSW was a great experience for myself as I was part of such a solid team. The competition was good also as we played against the best players from around Australia.

We lost in the final that year to Victoria 2-1. I was gutted but happy as well because I played for my state side," said the New South Welshman.

His eventual move to English Premier League giants Everton, looked like a 'Hollywood Movie'. Many clubs were after the talented Australian, but one club withstood the rest, purely for the fact that young David had a dream. "At the end of the ITC season, I went to England for a month where I gained a trial with first division side Barnsley. I did really well in the first trial match and had impressed at trainings. One of Barnsley's directors called me to his office after two weeks of trialling and offered me a three-year apprentice deal.

I was really gunning for a professional contract but they want-



Talented Young Aussie midfielder, David Carney (centre), with Everton manager Walter Smith (right) and Director of Youth Academy Ray Hall.

ed to see more of me. Another week had passed and Barnsley told me they wanted me on a pro contract. It was on a Friday afternoon I had received a call saying that Everton were interested as well. I thought it was a joke, but it turned out to be for real. I trained really well and impressed all the Everton directors.

After I had finished a trial match with Everton, Colin Harvey, director of Everton asked me about what was offered to me by Barnsley. I had told him the full deal and he said that he would double it.

My choice was between two clubs and I chose the club I had

supported through and through as a young lad. I signed a three-year professional deal, something of a dream for myself", said the Everton star.

It's been a year since Carney's departure from Australia, and from all reports the young Aussie star has impressed at Everton.

"I played in the U17's most of the time, but got called up to play for the U19's and reserve grade as well. The only reserve grade game I played was in a charity match against non-league side Runcorn in front of a healthy crowd.

I had come on in the last twenty minutes and scored a cracker to

give my side the win. It all went up from there, training and playing-wise. Having coaches like Colin Harvey (ex-Everton coach) really helped my game for the better.

Switching my role from a left wing player to a center midfielder was a big change in my style of football, but I have enjoyed this role. The facilities are top notch, and the pitches are quality," said Carney.

The lifestyle in England has suited David well, staying with his grandparents has made life easier.

"Liverpool is a nice place, it's really busy but it nothing beats

Sydney. The freezing conditions in Liverpool are bad, as it was something I wasn't used to in Australia.

I live with my grandparents which helps quite a bit as ever since day one they've showed me the ropes of living in England," said the former Westfield's student.

Being the only Australian in the entire Everton team, from juniors to first grade, the spotlight is emphasized highly on Carney.

"With Viduka and Kewell doing so well here, it's really boasted the Aussie name. The Everton press call me 'The Wizard of Oz', I really like the fact that they appreciate the Australians," said the speedy left footer.

Everton have been hailed as one of the best youth teams in England. Winning last season's U19's and reserve competitions, big players are tipped for 'the Goodison Park side.

"It was amazing winning these leagues as it really put Everton on the spot. It has always had consistent squads, and many quality players have come through the ranks at Everton. We currently have the U19 and U17 captains of England, and many Everton players have played international football," said David.

Pre-season is in full swing for Carney and his Everton squad, and with only weeks before the first kick-off, young Carney's dream of playing first grade seems even closer. Only time will tell until this youngster makes yet another name, as being another good Australian product.

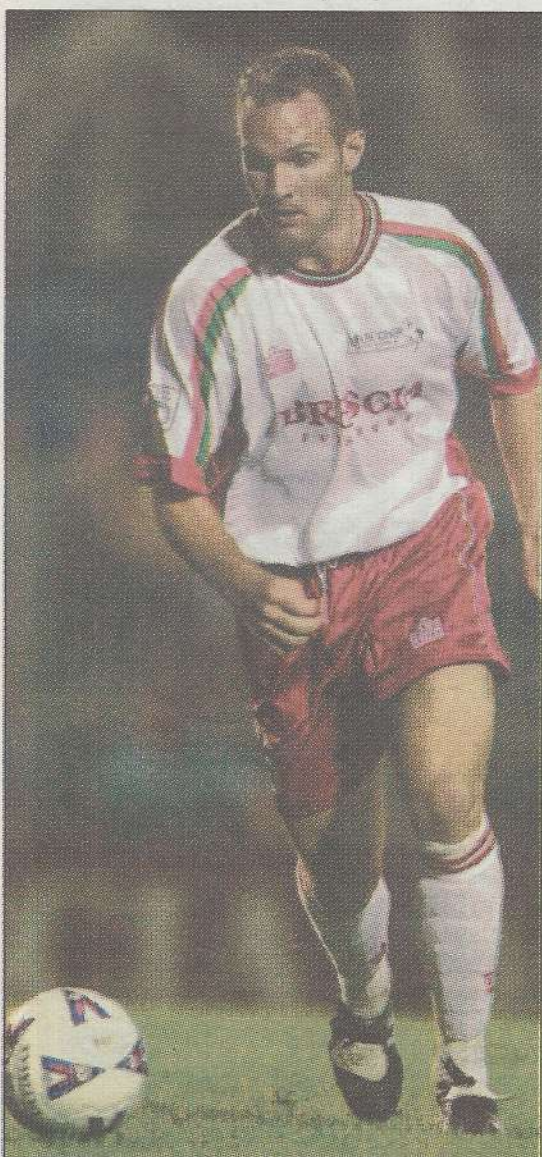
Zdrilic, Popovic spearhead Aussie transfers abroad

By Emma Nwaneri

In the wake of Australia's recent soccer exploits, an influx of Aussie soccer stars has hit Europe in search of the proverbial greener pastures.

By last week, a minimum of four key Socceroos stars are on the verge of lacing boots for English club sides alone when the new season kicks-off in August.

At the head of the exodus is 27-year-old David



Royce Brownlie: Hitting the European trail after a successful stint at Marconi.

Zdrilic, who wants to quit his current club German side Unterhaching, which was recently relegated from the Bundesliga.

Zdrilic's destination appears to be English first division side, Norwich City. The moderate club, which featured in the English premier-ship as recently as 1995, are reportedly interested in Zdrilic who they consider important in their quest to regain lost glory and fight for a premiership spot, in the new season.

Apart from Zdrilic, other Socceroos such as Tony Popovic, Josip Skoko and Marconi Stallions striker,

Royce Brownlie are all involved in discussions with various English sides in a bid to follow in the footsteps of their more-prestigious compatriots, Mark Viduka, Mark Bosnich and Harry Kewell.

Zdrilic has had a torrid time of it in Germany after suffering a string of injury problems, culminating in damage to his lower-back - a problem which kept him out of action for much of last season.

Aussie international teammate Tony Popovic could well be joining him in the First

nence when captaining Hajduk Split at the tender age of 23 and he is a very close friend of Leeds hit-man Mark Viduka.

Already, another Socceroo striker, John Aloisi has completed his move to Spain, where the former Coventry City star, has signed with second division side, Athletic Osasuna.

Scott Chipperfield recently secured a four-year deal with Swiss clubside FC Basel, where he will join another Aussie star, Ivan Ergic. Basel is also a feeder club for Italian giants, Juventus, so chances are that 'Chippy' may eventually wing his way into the Serie A if he impresses at Basel.

Young Socceroo Mark Byrnes has returned to NSL clubside Parramatta Power, after a four-month stint with Austrian first division side Salzburg.

Yet another shining star, Socceroo Brett Emerton continues to attract interest from several English Premier League clubs. Leeds United and Arsenal were reportedly locked into a battle for the midfielder, joining the likes of Liverpool and Middlesbrough, who have also shown interest in the past. However the recent acquisition of Dutch international Pierre VAN Hooijdonk by Emerton's club, Feyenoord may see him staying to link-up with the prolific Hooijdonk in attack.

In Italy, Vince Grella would be remaining at Empoli home again in the Serie-B, after spending a season with Ternana. Grella's contract saw him jointly-owned by the two clubs, with Ternana selling their 50% share of the midfielder back to Empoli, where Socceroo debutant Marco Bresciano plies his trade. However, the former Carlton player had his season cut short by an appendicitis attack and subsequent operation, which sidelined him from action since mid-May.

In Singapore, former Wollongong Wolves goalkeeper Grant Barlow has transferred to clubside Clementi Khalsa, where he joins Vlado Bozinoski and Ernie Tapai as the other Australians at the club. Also transferring into the Singapore League are Vlado Zoric (from Marconi Stallions, to Home United), Josip Kozic (from Melbourne Knights to Balestier Central) and Hrvoje Matkovic (from Melbourne Knights to Home United).

Meanwhile, George

Kulcsar's stay with Home United appears to have been short-lived, as the former Queens Park Rangers midfielder recently ended his contract with the club.

Back to Europe, South Melbourne's Goran Lozanovski has been signed by German second division club Aachen, where he will team up with former Northern Spirit defender Mark Rudan.



Archie Thompson: Sealed his move to Belgium.

Promising teenager and U17 Joey striker, Jay Lucas has officially moved to new club Southampton, after having formally left the Wollongong Wolves in June.

In transfer news from Greece, former Wollongong Wolves coach Nick Theodorakopoulos has taken up the reins at Greek second division club Kallithea.

Also apparently not happy with his club is Socceroo Stuart Lovell, who despite



Tony Popovic: Ending his spell at Sanfrecce Hiroshima for the lucrative confines of English soccer.

lengthy negotiations with Scottish Premier League side Hibernian, has reportedly not agreed to a new contract as yet.

Scott Guyett has taken an English divisional step up in the world, transferring from Conference League club Southport, to third division side Oxford United.

Brisbane Strikers' Chay Hews will become the second Australian to play in the Swedish League. Hews has been signed by IF Sylvia, and follows in the heels of Luke Casserly, who plays with AIK Solna.

Perth Glory and Socceroo midfielder Kasey Wehrman will become the third

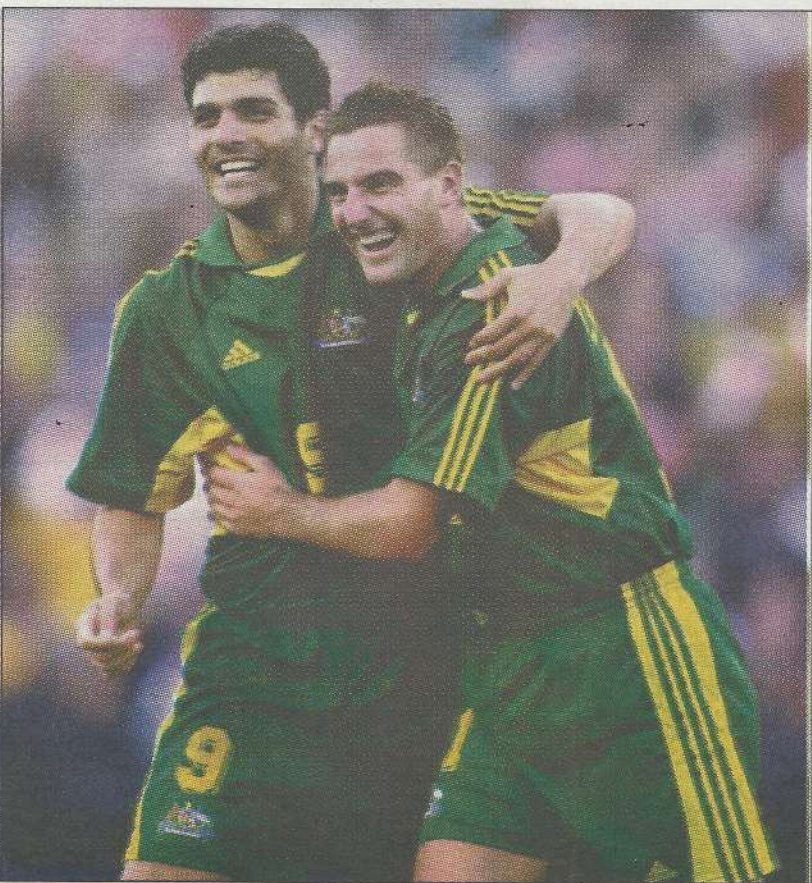
Australian to play in the Norwegian liga, following in the footsteps of Clayton Zane (Lillestrom + Molde) and Chad Gibson (Bodo/Glimt). Wehrman has joined clubside Moss for three years, and flies to Norway later this week.

Meantime, looking to become the fourth Australian in Norway is Sydney Olympic captain Ante Juric, who is currently on trials with first division side Molde, former home of Clayton Zane, while Peter Buljan (ex-Perth Glory and Brisbane Strikers) also trialled with clubside Bryne FK over the last two weeks.

Marconi and Socceroos' striker Archie Thompson is also in the thick of transfer wheeling and dealing, as he has since joined Belgian first division side, Lierse on a four-year contract. The club was the former home of Joe Spiteri.

Another Marconi player, Angelo Costanzo, has recently been trialling with Italian Serie-A club Perugia.

Blackburn Rovers' goalkeeper John Filan has been taken off the transfer lists from Ewood Park. The Australian, who lost his place between the posts to American Brad Friedel midway through last season, has decided to stay and fight for his position, with the newly-promoted side now destined for big things in the premiership.



David Zdrilic (right) is leaving relegated Unterhaching in search of greener pastures in England, while John Aloisi has already agreed terms with Osasuna.



Victorian Premier League

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FINAL ROUND

SHARKS LEAD CHASE FOR GRAND FINAL

By Bert van Bedaf

After an exhaustive season, the 2001 Premier League championship season has drawn to a close, following a final round in keeping with the rest of the home and away season - unpredictable and exciting.

Port Melbourne have won the minor premiership, whilst Essendon and Dandenong return to Crazy John's State League action. The top five are

Port Melbourne Sharks, Heidelberg United, Bulleen Zebras, Altona East Phoenix and Bentleigh Greens.

Minor premiers Port Melbourne Sharks outplayed the St. Albans Saints for a 3-1 victory. The win means that Port Melbourne will have a week's break before playing the Major Semi Final at their SS Anderson Reserve home next week.

Across town, second placed Heidelberg United were never troubled as they ended Dandenong Thunder's dreams

of survival. The Thunder needed to win and hope that teams around them lost, but an emphatic 5-0 win to the 'Bergers made all other results academic for Dandenong.

Amazingly, the Thunder have been relegated on 27 points. Heidelberg United secured second place and a home final with the victory.

Bulleen Zebras retained third position and the double

chance by overcoming Bentleigh Greens 2-0 at the Kingston Heath Soccer Complex.

Bentleigh managed to hang onto fifth place on goal difference, and scrape into the Finals.

Altona East Phoenix will make its first VPL Finals appearance after playing out a 2-2 draw with Fawkner Blues at Paisley Park, Altona. In a game which the ascendancy swung regularly between both teams, the final score was just enough for the Phoenix, and left Fawkner outside the top five on goal difference.

Altona Magic had to pull out all the stops to beat

Essendon Royals 3-1 after trailing for most of the match. The Royals were relegated weeks ago, but have never given up, and even with ten men for most of the game, gave the Magic a real scare.

The Magic missed out on a Finals berth on goal difference, but can reflect on a great second half of the season.

Meanwhile at BT Connor Reserve, Green Gully Cavaliers' chances of making the finals were extinguished by Preston Lions in a 3-2 thriller. Green Gully were champions in 1999 and 2000, but have never won through a Finals series.

Preston had the pressure of relegation hanging over them, but managed to come through when it counted.



AROUND THE GROUNDS

By George Koukeris & Angelo Koutos

With the minor premiership already secured, Port Melbourne hit another top note by defeating St Albans 3-1 at Anderson Reserve last Sunday. After a scoreless first half, Port Melbourne came out blasting after the break to give the Saints a big shake-up in defence.

With Arthur Tsirtakis and Peter Tsolakis working hard in the midfield, it was up to the individual talents of Nick Tsaltas to provide the breakthrough. His interception of a Tsolakis through-ball found its mark in the 73rd minute and the striker extended his lead on the goal scoring table.

Just five minutes later, Peter Psarros converted for the Sharks after another brilliant through-ball from Tsolakis. With less than 15 minutes remaining the match was all

but conceded by the Saints.

Lack of concentration by the Saints in the dying moments resulted in another goal for Psarros in the 85th minute to give the Sharks a convincing 3-0 lead.

Although Ante Kelic struck a consolation goal in the 89th minute, the Saints finished disappointingly, while they were top of the ladder earlier in the season and had high hopes of making the finals.

Meanwhile, Heidelberg proved to the soccer public not only are they back in form but hungry for the title by trouncing Dandenong 5-0, thereby relegating the Thunder to the State League next season.

Facing mounting pressure during the week, the club carried the burden for several league

clubs facing relegation to save their places in the top competition.

In front of more than 1500 spectators the game started in spectacular fashion when

Heidelberg was awarded a penalty in the first minute of the game thanks to a clumsy tackle. The goal was easily converted by Damien Vojtek.

Dandenong looked more dangerous off the park than on the park. During the remaining half, the Dandenong spectators were more interested in how many flares could be thrown onto the game, than supporting their players.

The match was halted at one stage to allow flares to be cleared from the ground.

The second goal came from a delightful header by Eric Vassiliadis, courtesy of an Alfonso Opazo cross. The third goal came from Opazo, whose powerful shot was no match for the keeper.

The second half started in similar fashion. The fourth goal was shot by Eric Vassiliadis. The nail in the coffin came through a delightful dummy by Opazo who rounded the keeper and walked the ball into the net for 5-0.

LIONS ESCAPE BITING CAVALIERS

By Bert van Bedaf

Preston Lions escaped relegation in a dramatic finale to the home-and-rounds last Sunday. But the Cavaliers will miss out on finals football and the chance to win their third title in a row.

The Lions defeated back-to-back title holder Green Gully 3-2 at B.T. Connor Reserve to finish their embattled season in ninth place and on a winning note.

As it was, they did not need victory to seal their place in next year's competition since Heidelberg United thrashed second bottom Dandenong 5-0 to return the Thunder to division one of the State League, together with bottom side Essendon Royals.

But the win was a morale boost for the Preston team and its coach Vlado Vanis, who was called upon to rescue the Lions from looming relegation halfway through the season.

"My job was to keep the club in the Premier League and I've done this," Vanis said afterwards.

Vanis extracted 20 points from 11 rounds, losing only three games in the process.

"We worked hard. The boys put in two extra training sessions per week and the hard work has paid off," he said.

In the scoreless first half, Preston created three good chances, but Gully's experienced goal keeper, Robert Brian, denied Daniel Malina once and Dimce Panev twice.

Captain Chris Emsovski released John Sapazovski on the right with a fine through-pass. Sapazovski crossed in to the box, where an unmarked Panev drilled the opening goal beneath Brian, who tried to spread himself wide.

Six minutes later

Sapazovski cut back from the goal line into the box, where Gully midfielder Zdravko Atanasovski deflected the ball into his own goal for Preston's second strike.

Preston should have consolidated, but conceded two goals instead as the Cavaliers pushed forward in a last-gasp effort to salvage their season.

Within a minute, George Svigos and Henry Velkovski equalised for Gully, with only eight minutes remaining.

But the Lions were up to the task. Four minutes from official time, Malina crossed to the far post, where Sapazovski tapped in the winner to seal Preston's turbulent season with a deserved home win.

GREENS ARE WILTING

By Bill Brickell

Bulleen Zebras set themselves up for the finals campaign with a comfortable 2-0 win over a disappointing Bentleigh Greens. It could have been worse for the Greens but for a second-half penalty miss by Bulleen's Danny Gnjdic.

Bentleigh had chances early. Doug Mladenovic laid off to Tom Karapatsos who weaved past two Bulleen defenders only to blast his shot wide; but Greens could find no rhythm, relying on high balls to lone forward Juan Nilo.

Bulleen struck after 14 minutes. Sava Rusmir curled a free-kick from the right, over a nest of defenders, to find Nathan Thomas unmarked on the far side of the area. Thomas's powerful header flew into the top right corner giving 'keeper Glenn Clarke no chance.

Bulleen took control and had Dean Tartaglia running riot in a roving commission.

Will Hastie and Damien Guglielmi controlled the midfield and Ryan Ollerton was probing down the right wing. Rusmir to Gnjdic was a good move but the left-footed shot was weak.

Late in the half Bentleigh came back. Nilo shot straight at Bulleen custodian Michael Theoklitos, Jim Kotsovolos fired over the bar and George Kalimeris followed suit after being put through by Nilo.

After the interval Bentleigh had more chances with Michael

Anderson clear in the area before a timely tackle by Jimmy Latinopoulos prevented the shot. Delicate close control by Nilo - put Anderson

through again but Theoklitos was quick off his line to push the shot wide.

Bulleen doubled their lead in the 58th minute. A long free kick was gathered by Warren Spink on the edge of the area. Turning two defenders, he delicately chipped the stranded Clarke for one of the season's classiest goals.



Round 22 — Results

Port Melb'Rne Sharks .3	St. Albans Saints 1
Bentleigh Greens 0	Bulleen Zebras 2
Altona East Phoenix . .2	Fawkner Blues 2
Essendon Royals 1	Altona Magic 3
Heidelberg United 5	Dandenong Thunder . .0
Preston Lions 3	Green Gully Caval'Rs .2

VIC PREMIER LEAGUE LADDER

(AFTER ROUND 22)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Port Melb'Rne Sharks	22	13	3	6	48	25	42
Heidelberg United	22	12	3	7	32	19	39
Bulleen Zebras	22	11	5	6	29	22	38
Altona East Phoenix	22	10	3	9	29	27	33
Bentleigh Greens	22	9	5	8	32	24	32
Fawkner Blues	22	8	8	6	26	22	32
Altona Magic	22	9	5	8	32	31	32
Green Gully Caval'Rs	22	9	4	9	32	30	31
Preston Lions	22	9	4	9	25	31	31
St. Albans Saints	22	8	5	9	31	33	29
Dandenong Thunder	22	7	6	9	24	40	27
Essendon Royals	22	0	3	19	18	54	3



Victorian Premier League

SUNDAY 22TH JULY

ELIMINATION FINAL

ALTONA EAST PHOENIX v BENTLEIGH GREENS

at
PAISLEY RESERVE - 3.00PM

QUALIFYING FINAL

HEIDELBERG UNITED v BULLEEN ZEBRAS

at
OLYMPIC PARK - 3.00PM

For more information, log onto
www.soccervictoria.org.au



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PREMIER LEAGUE WRAP-UPS By Glenn Davis

By Glenn Davis

A controversial penalty by referee Calvin Daunt enabled Brisbane City to escape with a 2-2 draw in a top of the table clash with Wynnum in Queensland's premier league last weekend.

Wynnum coach Peter Tokesi was highly-critical of the decision, which allowed Brisbane City to draw level at 1-1 on the half hour. The incident occurred when Wynnum's Duncan Easton allegedly fouled Brisbane City midfielder Vedran Becirbegovic in the box prompting a swift reaction from Daunt who pointed to the penalty spot.

Rangy striker Mark Battistin stepped up to slot home the pressure kick after his side found itself

trailing 1-0 after only 12 minutes.

Wynnum's dream start was sparked down the left side by Paul De Vries who crossed into the area for Josh Rose to drive home.

"I couldn't see it was a penalty and I think the ref was the only person on the ground who thought it was," Tokesi said.

Wynnum dominated play in the first half although City had their chances to take a half time lead.



The Wolves missed a golden opportunity three minutes after the resumption to increase their lead but lady luck was on the side of the visitors when a shot rebounded off the upright and rolled across the goal face before it was eventually struck wide.

Wynnum continued to press the City defence and finally hit the lead 2-1 through Shane Gilroy after good lead-up work from Anthony Roche who rounded a defender for the lay-off.

"We were going okay but the complexion of the game changed when Danny Wright pushed three men up front," Tokesi said. "It meant we had to defend a lot more and rely on catching them on the break."

City's equaliser came with only ten minutes to go when Andrew King headed home unchallenged from a corner.

City coach Danny Wright disagreed with Tokesi's assessment of the penalty.

"It was our first penalty all year

and I couldn't see how Easton could have tackled Vedran fairly," Wright said.

"But in saying that we didn't play well and we had to play catch up football all night.

"I was going to change our system at half time to push three men up front but I waited too long in the end."

Wright had no complaints and believed 2-2 was a fair result although he conceded Wynnum won crucial challenges, particularly in the first half.

"I'm not happy with the way we've been playing lately and we seem to have gone off the boil," he said. "A few of the boys have been carrying injuries and there'll be a few changes for our next game against Pine Rivers."

The draw meant Wynnum stay three points clear of Brisbane City who have a game in hand against Bundaberg, which went down 2-0 to the Gold Coast following an Adam Poric double.

"People say a draw is better than a loss but in this case a draw means the

Gold Coast are now only four points behind us instead of six," Tokesi said. "We needed to win for a three point buffer as Brisbane City have an easy run home while we've got to play the harder sides."

"It puts us under some pressure but Brisbane City also faces some pressure themselves as they'll be playing sides battling for relegation."



Trevor Gilliland:
Toowoomba's reliable keeper had an outstanding game to ensure a 2-1 victory over Mt Gravatt.

Brisbane City will now focus on the Queensland Cup semi-final against North Star at Perry Park this Wednesday while Wynnum meet Brisbane Lions in their semi-showdown on Wednesday week.

That game was also scheduled for Perry Park but was switched to Lions home ground at Richlands, which has sparked a formal protest from the Wolves to the Queensland Soccer Federation.

"The game was supposed to be at Perry Park but has been transferred at this stage to Lions," Tokesi said. "Whatever happened to the neutral venue system? It's now a home game for Lions."

In other results Toowoomba pushed Mt Gravatt right back into the relegation fight with a 2-1 win at Dittmer Park while Brisbane Lions again had to battle hard for

a 1-0 victory over Ipswich.

At Heath Park, Pine Rivers topped Easts 1-0 while Rochedale came from behind to beat Taringa 2-1 at Jack Speare Park.

In the Dittmer Park battle, Toowoomba netted twice after the break to overcome a 1-0 deficit produced by an Adam Webber goal in the 20th minute.

"It was a tight game and could have gone either way," said Mt Gravatt coach Mal Bland.

"All our games are close at the moment but we've been losing by the odd goal.

"We're second bottom again but it could have been different if we hadn't missed a couple of chances in the second half which would have put Toowoomba away."

Toowoomba keeper Trevor Gilliland had an outstanding game, according to Bland.

"In one instance, Ben Stabler had a long range shot at him and somehow he pulled off a miraculous save," he said.

At Jack Speare Park, Steve Unsworth scored against the run of play to give Taringa a 1-0 lead at halftime.

However, coach Keiran Cooper's young brigade staged a strong second half comeback to

draw level through Roy Huth before Todd Patch netted the winner with ten minutes to go.

"It was an even game but Taringa scored first against the run of play until we came back at them after the break," Cooper said.

"We just shaded them in the end and overall I'm always pleased to get three points no matter how."

At Lions Stadium, former Brisbane and Newcastle striker Reece Tollenaere broke the deadlock for Lions's win over Ipswich while Marc Flemington gave Pine Rivers' only its first away win of the season over Easts.



Roy Huth: Continues his good form by scoring the Rochedale's first goal against Taringa.



Anthony Roche: Had a good game as the Wolves drew 2-2 with Brisbane City.



ALL THE RESULTS ... ALL THE RESULTS ... ALL THE RESULTS ...

ROUND 17

XXXX League

Mt Gravatt	1	TBA Raiders	2
Wynnum	2	Brisbane City	2
B'Berg Waves	0	Gold Coast	2
Brisbane Lions	1	IPSW Knights	0
Eastern Subs	0	Pine Rivers	1
Taringa Rovers	1	Rochedale Rovers	2

XXXX Reserves

Mt Gravatt	1	TBA Raiders	1
Wynnum	2	Brisbane City	2
B'Berg Waves	1	Gold Coast	7
Brisbane Lions	0	IPSW Knights	1
Eastern Subs	3	Pine Rivers	0
Taringa Rovers	0	Rochedale Rovers	2

XXXX Youth

Mt Gravatt	1	TBA Raiders	1
Wynnum	3	Brisbane City	1
Sunshine Coast	1	Gold Coast	2
Brisbane Lions	2	IPSW Knights	0
Eastern Subs	2	Pine Rivers	1
Taringa Rovers	1	Rochedale Rovers	7

ROUND 20

Semi Professional League

Newmarket	0	Mitchelton	1
Capalaba	2	Albany Creek	3
North Pine	0	Redlands Utd	1
Souths Utd	3	Slacks Creek	0
Grange Thistle	0	Acacia Ridge	2
Rocklea Utd	1	North Star	4

Semi Pro Reserves

Newmarket	1	Mitchelton	4
Capalaba	0	Albany Creek	1
North Pine	2	Redlands Utd	5
Souths Utd	4	Slacks Creek	1
Grange Thistle	0	Acacia Ridge	2
Rocklea Utd	1	North Star	2

Semi Pro Youth

Newmarket	2	Mitchelton	0
Capalaba	1	Albany Creek	1
North Pine	0	Redlands Utd	5
Souths Utd	5	Slacks Creek	1
Grange Thistle	5	Acacia Ridge	1
Olympic Utd	1	The Gap	5
Rocklea Utd	2	North Star	4

PREMIER LEAGUE LADDER

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
1. Wynnum Wolves	17	11	5	1	47	17	30	38
2. Brisbane City	16	10	5	1	36	13	23	35
3. Gold Coast City	17	10	4	3	36	19	17	34
4. Brisbane Lions	17	8	6	3	37	25	12	30
5. Ipswich Knights	17	7	6	4	30	19	11	27
6. Rochedale Rovers	17	8	3	6	31	25	6	27
7. Taringa Rovers	17	5	4	8	18	24	-6	19
8. Eastern Suburbs	17	4	4	9	23	44	-21	16
9. Toowoomba	17	4	3	10	18	31	-13	15
10. Bundaberg Waves	16	4	2	10	23	31	-8	14
11. Mount Gravatt	17	4	1	12	25	51	-26	13
12. Pine Rivers United	17	3	3	11	23	48	-25	12

QUEENSLAND PREMIER LEAGUE



FIXTURES (ROUND 17)

Saturday 21st July

Wynnum v Brisbane Lions	7.00pm
Gold Coast v TBA Raiders	7.00pm
Rochedale Rovers v Easter Subs	7.00pm
Pine Rivers v Brisbane City	7.00pm

Sunday 22nd July

IPSW Knights v B'Berg Waves	2.45pm
Taringa Rovers v Mt Gravatt	2.45pm



NSW Youth League Results



SUPER YOUTH LEAGUE

GRADE 17: Eastern Suburbs Wanderers 2 Penrith Panthers 4, Sydney United 4 Newcastle United 2, Canterbury Marrickville 4 Marconi Stallions 1, St George 1 Leichhardt Tigers 0, Northern Spirit 1 Manly Warringah Dolphins 0, Bankstown City Cubs 0 Sydney Olympic 1, Blacktown City Demons 10 Macarthur Rams 0, Fairfield Bulls 0 Central Coast Coasties 1, Bonnyrigg White Eagles 2 Wollongong Wolves 1.

GRADE 15: Eastern Suburbs Wanderers 0 Penrith Panthers 1, Sydney United 0 Newcastle United 0, Canterbury Marrickville 0 Marconi Stallions 1, Sutherland Shire 0 Parramatta Eagles 0, St

George 0 Leichhardt Tigers 2, Northern Spirit 4 Manly Warringah Dolphins 0, Bankstown City Cubs 2 Sydney Olympic 4, Blacktown City Demons 2 Macarthur Rams 0, Fairfield Bulls 0 Central Coast Coasties 2, Bonnyrigg White Eagles 3 Wollongong Wolves 1.

GRADE 14: Eastern Suburbs Wanderers 1 Penrith Panthers 1, Sydney United 2 Newcastle United 1, Canterbury Marrickville 0 Marconi Stallions 6, Sutherland Shire 1 Parramatta Eagles 0, St George 0 Leichhardt Tigers 1, Northern Spirit 7 Manly Warringah Dolphins 0, Bankstown City Cubs 3 Sydney Olympic 2, Blacktown City Demons 1 Macarthur Rams 0, Fairfield Bulls 0 Central Coast Coasties 0, Bonnyrigg White Eagles 0 Wollongong Wolves 3.

SUPER CADET LEAGUE

GRADE 13: Eastern Suburbs Wanderers 2 Penrith Panthers 2, Sydney United 3 Newcastle United 5, Canterbury Marrickville 1 Marconi Stallions 1, Sutherland Shire 1 Parramatta Eagles 3, St George 0 Leichhardt Tigers 2, Northern Spirit 3 Manly Warringah Dolphins 0, Bankstown City Cubs 0 Sydney Olympic 5, Blacktown City Demons 4 Macarthur Rams 1, Fairfield Bulls 0 Central Coast Coasties 1, Bonnyrigg White Eagles 5 Wollongong Wolves 2.

GRADE 12: Sutherland Shire 0 Parramatta Eagles 0, St George 2 Leichhardt Tigers 0, Northern Spirit 3 Manly Warringah Dolphins 0, Bankstown

City Cubs 0 Sydney Olympic 1, Blacktown City Demons 1 Macarthur Rams 0, Fairfield Bulls 1 Central Coast Coasties 2, Bonnyrigg White Eagles 1 Wollongong Wolves 2. Eastern Suburbs Wanderers 0 Penrith Panthers 2, Canterbury Marrickville 1 Marconi Stallions 3.

GRADE 11: Sutherland Shire 0 Parramatta Eagles 3, St George 1 Leichhardt Tigers 0, Northern Spirit 0 Manly Warringah Dolphins 0, Bankstown City Cubs 0 Sydney Olympic 5, Blacktown City Demons 2 Macarthur Rams 0, Fairfield Bulls 1 Central Coast Coasties 7, Bonnyrigg White Eagles 0 Wollongong Wolves 5, Eastern Suburbs Wanderers 3 Penrith Panthers 0, Canterbury Marrickville 1 Marconi Stallions 1.

WOLLONGONG NEWS

By Otto Bader

Latest from the Wolves Camp — the School Holidays Coaching clinic conducted by the club's Development Officer Eddie Tesoro, assisted by senior players, at Helensburgh attracted over 100 youngsters and ran to Thursday last week.

For the second coaching course to be held at Brandon Park, the club reports more than 160 bookings have been received for the three day clinic. All kids will receive a momentum from the Wolves, hopefully to cherish their meeting with the senior players.

Youth Trials for U/19s are to be held at Brandon Park from this week on every Monday and Wednesday from 6pm. To be organised shortly are friendly matches against Stanmore Hawks U/21s, against Lysaght Tigers first grade and MacArthur U/18s, most likely to be played at No.2 Brandon Park if available.

General Manager Graeme Haney reports that striker Sasho Petrovski has returned from trials with two German Soccer Clubs. The unofficial word is that Hanover 96 — a prominent side in the second Bundesliga, aiming for promotion, is very keen to sign Petrovski. If that is successful, the Wolves might have to shop around for a suitable replacement.

Meanwhile the Wolves announced that promising young players Beren Sullivan and Liam Austim have signed a contract for one year, eager to make the senior team, having a great opportunity with the coach looking for replacements after having lost several squad members.

Keeper Grant Barlow (21), on loan to Singapore club Clementi Khalsa has made quite an impact, taking out the Man-of-the-Match award in a recent 0-0 draw, as well as keeping a clean sheet in his second game, a 3-0 win. He is a team mate in Singapore of former Soccerroo Ernie Tapie.

ICU Premier League Soccer — Round 14 results and reviews: Home team wins 5, only 1 away win, total of 27 goals scored, no change of competition leader, two bottom teams falling further behind.

Wollongong Olympic 2 Coniston 0 — The Sunday Match of the round at J.J. Kelly



Grant Barlow (left): Wolves' on-loan goalkeeper, now making waves in Singapore.

Park, a minor surprise with Olympic repelling every dangerous attack, standing firm with keeper Christian Pretto in top form, goals scored one in each half by Greg Lerond and Andy Amagashie — a talented young striker, veteran Warren Baker switched from Bulli to Olympic before the deadline, enjoying his game with a win, Coniston playing well enough to deserve better fifth played third, one making valuable ground, the other dropping one place, both face tough opposition next.

Cringila Lions 4 Balgownie 1 — A convincing win for the home side, lifting the team into fourth spot, scoring two quick goals early with Steven Jovanovski and Oliver Sekuloski, further goals from Lupcho Naumovski and Tony Sekuloski, Daniel Vlietstra scoring for Balgownie, the Lions coach all smiles looking to his side to continue their present good form. Balgownie coach Jock Morlando not satisfied with the result, looking for improvement.

Port Kembla 3 Bulli 2 — A very close result, decided in the final minutes, second played 10th, the visitors playing well enough to deserve a draw, goals coming first from Port's Mineo Bonetig, equaliser from Alan Flack after a fumble by the keeper, Michael Clare made it 2-1, equaliser again by Rod Paterson, the winning goal with a penalty by Nick Polimenakos, a rather fortunate win for

Port, no well positioned for a challenge to be champions again but still some tough games to come, Bulli will do better to stay clear of the lower places.

Shoalhaven 1 Picton 3 — A do or die match, a crucial one for the two clubs, the position is not looking good for the home side, while Picton made up valuable ground, the home side took the lead until half-time and then allowed the visitors to take the points with three goals in the second part. Both teams have still to play some of the top contenders and must attempt to collect points to survive in the league.

Lysaght 2 Western Suburbs 0 — Not a result the experts would have predicted, more was expected from West, eighth placed met sixth, the lower placed side successful with goals from Chad Bishop and substitute Colin Walker, even though the points only were made safe in the final minutes, the host looked the better side, both teams well positioned to make a challenge for a top end spot.

Kemblawarra 7 Northern United 2 — The score does not indicate play, the game still not decided with 2-2 in the second half, however the floodgates opened with four goals in five minutes plus a late penalty, finding the target were Richard Lloyd (2), Paul Gaffney (2), Matt Parker (2), John Flack (penalty) for the competition leader, now five points clear of second placed Port

Kembla while North remains in bottoms pot not looking strong enough to make up ground.

Points Table — Kemblawarra 35 points, Port 30, Coniston 28, Cringila 25, Olympic 24, West 22, Balgownie 20, Lysaght 18, Picton 13, Bulli 11, Shoalhaven 10, North 1.

ICU First Division — the 17 clubs enjoyed a free weekend due to the decision to only play 17 rounds, each other meeting once the present state of the competition after round 12 produced a jam of six clubs at the top end still in with the chance of winning the title and possible promotion. Prospects and reviews of the sides.

Warilla Wanderers lead with 30 points, sure of another three points having the BYE coming up, but still facing two well placed sides, third and sixth placed, should have less trouble with the remaining two games, generally looking good for a top spot.

Kiama in second place on 20 points, could have been better placed if not for the misfortune of losing points, have the BYE to credit three points and on paper an easy run home, might well be there in the final round.

Tarrawanna in third place on 27 points, only one win away from top spot, must show character to face fourth placed, first and sixth before claiming the BYE in the final round, looks a tough draw for them to demand the top place.

Albion Park WE in fourth spot on 25th points, face still third, fifth plus some lower placed sides, have a good chance to claim the title and promotion but must show consistency, not easy but not impossible to do well.

Bellambi in fifth spot also on 25 points, have to face still fourth placed and some strong mid table sides, won't be easy to move up much higher on the table.

Helensburgh in sixth place, the third team on 25 points, face still first placed, having the BYE with three points then face second placed, need to have the stamina to survive, unlikely to make top spot however should finish in top four.

Also-Runs — the remaining clubs have

only an outside chance to break into the top six, perhaps University on 22 points, Highlands 21 and South Coast United on 20 points can do it, but must play still some competitive sides, not likely to move much higher on the table, the remaining eight clubs more or less play for pride only.

The playing schedule has not been considered satisfactory this year by most, some clubs are hoping for an improved format next season.

Astonishing Curiosity — soccer and Rugby league can work together successfully as demonstrated with Port Kembla Soccer club's Major Sponsor ABB — a prominent Engineering Business.

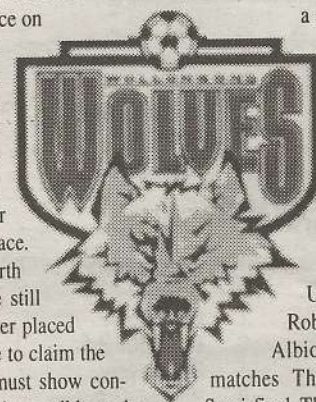
Soccer Club President Emilio Sulucci and rugby league Shellharbour Sharks Club President Peter Blaine, work closely together side by side in the same company in leading positions.

Their dream-idea for next year is to stage a sporting double-header preferable at Ron Costello Oval, Shellharbour. both teams — Port Kembla and the Shellharbour Sharks would combine soccer and rugby league in a spectacular fixture, a first in Illawarra, hopefully attracting plenty of fans.

Junior Soccer — results from Shellharbour U/12s drew 0-0 with Albion Park, U/13s won 3-0 at Helensburgh.

Upcoming Soccer Knockouts: Robert Brown U/16 knockout at Albion park with qualifying matches Thursday 26/7, Friday 27/7, Semi-final Thursday 9/8 and Final 23/8. Girls U/16 knockout also at Albion Park on Thursday 2/8, 16/8 and 23/8. All games are played under floodlights and supporters are asked to cheer their teams on.

Referee Quiz — No.10 of the attacking team strikes with force a fantastic shot at goal. Next the ball is outside the net. What should the referee decide? (Answer: restart with a goal kick, the nets been checked prior).





Winter Super League

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ROUND 18

LIONS LEAD THE PACK

Hajduk 0 Bankstown 1

The Bankstown City Lions have consolidated their place at the top of the NSWSL ladder with a hard fought 1-0 victory over the Hajduk Wanderers at Hajduk Stadium.

Despite being outplayed by the home side in the first half, the Lions snatched the three points courtesy of a 78th minute goal to Goce Trposki. Midfielder Robert Gomez began

the movement from just outside the penalty area with a great run.

After getting round a Hajduk defender Gomez pushed the ball deep into the

left corner before sending a low cross to Trposki at the near post who was able to bury the shot and any hope Hajduk had of splitting the points.

Macarthur Rams 1 Rockdale 1

The Macarthur Rams and the Rockdale City Suns shared the spoils at Lynwood Park as the Rams hosted the Suns for the first time since 1996 when the Rale Rasic coached Suns won 1-0 courtesy of a Eric Williams goal in a match that saw the debut of a captain Spase Najdoski.

The goals came late in the game with Eric Williams again on the scoresheet, this

time for the Rams, scoring in the 81st minute controlling a cross before turning and beating keeper Amir Ajanovic from close range.

The Suns were quick to hit back with Francis Awaritefe getting the equaliser 4 minutes later when he received a pass from Dean Culina following a Nabil Codmani corner before beating the keeper with a low shot.

It made up for a header from Francis Awaritefe that was

disallowed 15 minutes into the game.

Stanmore Hawks 2 Fraser Park 1

The Stanmore Hawks downed the Fraser Park Jets 2-1 at Arlington Oval on Sunday afternoon. In a game that rendered few opportunities, the first goal went the way of the Jets when Ivo De Jesus converted a penalty in the 34th minute.

The Hawks two goals came in the second half through a rebound off a penalty attempt from Max Sevares, and then Yane Talceviski hammered home the winning goal which occurred against the run of play.

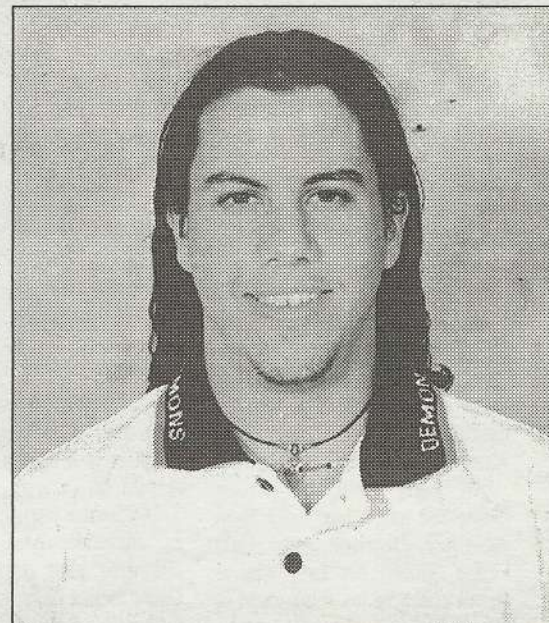
setting out on a mazy run to celebrate with his team mates in front of the grandstand.

A.C. United 2 Fairfield Bulls 1

Just as the sun set on J Abruzzi Oval so too did the 14 match unbeaten streak of the Fairfield Bulls, falling to A.C. United two goals to one in a bruising and often spiteful match.

The Abruzzi faithful, were warmed with goal from Alex Araujo on 21 minutes who fired home first time from the edge of the penalty area after good lead up work from Devrim Huseyin. Mathew Borg equalised on the stroke of half time for the Bulls.

On 80 minutes Allan Picken scored the winner after winning the ball from Paul Richardson to unleash a low shot into the bottom corner of the goal.



Ivo De Jesus: Scored a solitary goal for Fraser Park but couldn't prevent a 2-1 loss to the Stanmore Hawks.

BERRY BREAKS DULWICH



Steve Berry: Dolphin's striker scored the crucial winner against Dulwich Hill.

Manly-Warringah 1 Dulwich Hill 0

Manly returned to the winners list courtesy of a hard fought 1-0 win against fellow top five aspirants Dulwich Hill at Cromer Park on Sunday. The lone goal going the way of Steve Berry in the 15th minute when

he headed in an Antonio Farria corner.

Despite both sides having a number of chances to score, further goals eluded them. Manly's Jonathon Mitten struck the post twice, while Eric Hristodoulou also collected the woodwork with a powerful 30 metre free-kick.

The win elevated the Dolphins back up to second place on the table, while Dulwich Hill dropped a spot to fourth.

Hurstville 1 MSC Liverpool 0

It took the Minotaurs just seven minutes to score what would turn out to be the winning goal. For the remaining eighty three minutes of the match, the small crowd at St. George Stadium were treated to a frustrating football experience which saw MSC Liverpool show their long suffering fans, any number of ways to squander goal scoring opportunities.

The Minotaurs started the game brightly and when enigmatic striker Evangelos Petratos was fouled on the edge of the penalty box, the crowd sensed something was brewing.

Up stepped Hussein Jomaa who neatly curled his left foot strike around the Liverpool wall and into the top right hand corner of the goal before



Winter Super League

ROUND 19

FRIDAY 20th JULY

Fraser Park Jets v Hurstville City Minotaurs Fraser Park
First Grade: 8.15pm U/21: 6.30pm

SATURDAY 21th JULY

Fraser Park Jets v Hurstville City Minotaurs Fraser Park
U/18: 3.00pm
Fairfield Bulls v Hajduk Wanderers Hajduk Stadium
First Grade: 3.00pm U/21: 1.00pm U/18: 3.00pm

SUNDAY 22th JULY

Bankstown City Lions v Stanmore Hawks Jensen Park
First Grade: 3.00pm U/21: 1.00pm U/18: 11.00pm
Dulwich Hill v AC United Arlington Oval
First Grade: 3.00pm U/21: 1.00pm U/18: 11.00pm
Rockdale City Suns v Manly Warringah Rockdale Ilinden S. Gr.
First Grade: 3.00pm U/21: 1.00pm U/18: 11.00pm
MSC Liverpool v Macarthur Rams Hammondville Oval
First Grade: 3.00pm U/21: 1.00pm U/18: 11.00pm

WINTER SUPER LEAGUE LADDER

(AFTER ROUND 18)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1. Bankstown City Lions	18	11	4	3	34	13	37
2. Manly Warringah Dolphins	18	11	2	5	44	24	35
3. Fairfield Bulls	17	10	4	3	57	21	34
4. Dulwich Hill	17	10	3	4	31	17	33
5. Rockdale City Suns	18	9	3	6	36	32	30
6. AC United	18	8	4	6	25	23	28
7. Hurstville City Minotaurs	18	7	3	8	19	28	24
8. Stanmore Hawks	18	6	2	10	22	37	20
9. Macarthur Rams	18	5	4	9	21	26	19
10. Hajduk Wanderers	18	5	4	9	27	39	19
11. Fraser Park	18	5	2	11	30	38	17
12. MSC Liverpool	18	1	3	14	18	66	6

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www.soccernsw.com.au

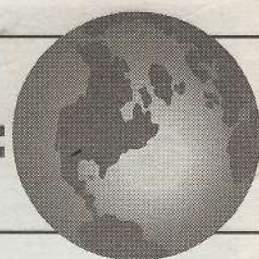
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Copa America



Scolari breaks duck against Peru

Brazil ended a run of four successive defeats and six games without a win by beating Peru 2-0 in the Copa America on Sunday.

An early goal by striker Guilherme and a late strike from substitute Denilson gave Luiz Felipe Scolari his first win as Brazil coach in his third game in charge.

Guilherme's goal was the first of Scolari's reign.

Although both Brazil and Peru

were fielding reserve teams in the devalued competition, the result is still a morale-booster for Brazil who have a crucial World Cup qualifier at home to Paraguay on August 15.

Guilherme latched onto a pass by midfielder Alex and fired a first-time shot past goalkeeper Oscar Ibanez in the tenth minute.

Brazil, making six changes from the team that lost 1-0 to Mexico last week, played cautiously for the rest of the match

and created few chances.

Peru threatened an equaliser in the second half but their fightback ended when midfielder Santiago Salazar was sent off for a bruising tackle on Juninho Paulista.

In the 86th minute, Denilson burst through the defence and side-footed the ball into the goal from the edge of the penalty area to give Brazil their first points in Group B.

Paraguay and Mexico ended their action-packed clash 0-0 in another group B match immediately afterwards in the same stadium. Peru have one point.

Brazil's last win was against Cameroon in the Confederations Cup in May. They then drew with Canada and Japan and lost to France and Australia in the same competition, were beaten by Uruguay in a World Cup qualifier on July 1 and then Mexico in the Copa America on last week.

Last Thursday's 1-0 defeat to Mexico in the Copa America in Colombia was Brazil's fourth in a row, the first time since 1921 that



Mexico's Jared Borgetti (centre) celebrates his goal in the 1-0 win over Brazil in their first match of the Copa America played in Cali's Pascual Guerrero Stadium, last week.

they have lost four matches on the trot.

Just as in the World Cup qualifier against Uruguay two weeks ago, when Brazil also went down 1-0, the team was devoid of confidence, ideas, creativity and talent. The Rio de Janeiro daily O Globo described it as "one of the worst performances in Brazil's history".

Meanwhile, outspoken columnist Juca Kfoury told readers of the sports paper Lance: "The Brazilian Football Confederation's team loses with the first team, the reserve team, the third team and the under-20 team. Losing is our business."

In Argentina, who refused to take part in the Copa because of the chaotic manner in which it has

been organised by the South American Football Confederation (CSF), commentators were having a good laugh at their arch-rivals' expense.

"Brazil didn't turn up either," said the sports newspaper Ole alongside an archive photograph of a weeping Pele. "At least we told people we weren't going."

Scolari, Brazil's third coach in less than a year, was stunned after the match when was asked about

his future in the job after just 180 minutes in the hot seat.

"For heaven's sake, this is a question just to irritate me and it's not going to irritate me," said the man known as Big Phil.

Most critics admit that the competition, suffering from an overcrowded fixture list and the CSF's indecision over whether, when and where it should go ahead, has become meaningless — but maybe this is the root of Brazil's ills.



Colombian dancers perform during the opening ceremony for the Copa America soccer tournament, at the Roberto Melendez stadium in Barranquilla, Colombia, last week.

Tunisia qualify as Morocco, Liberia set for anxious wait

Tunisia qualified for the World Cup finals on Sunday following their 3-0 win in the Democratic Republic of Congo and the failure of closest rivals the Ivory Coast to beat Congo-Brazzaville. Tunisia joined Cameroon and South Africa as the first three qualifiers for next year's tournament in Japan and South Korea.

The Tunisians' victory in Kinshasa, the biggest home defeat ever inflicted on the former Zaire, was marred by crowd trouble as spectators at the Martyr stadium interrupted play with a shower of objects directed at Malian referee Koman Coulibaly.

Defender Khaled Badra headed Tunisia in front after 14 minutes, and two goals in two minutes after the interval secured victory for the north Africans.

Both were scored by midfielder

Zoubier Baya, one of several members of the side who played in the 1998 World Cup finals in France, the second with an ambitious lob from 40 metres.

The win ensured Tunisia finished qualifying with an unbeaten record and an unassailable lead in their group after the Ivorians' hopes were ended by their 1-1 draw with Congo in Pointe Noire.

Senegal snatched a 1-0 home win over World Cup qualifying group C leaders Morocco on Saturday, denying the visitors a point which would have put them into next year's finals.

The result means the battle for the group's qualification spot goes to the final set of matches in two

weeks' time, when Senegal and Egypt could both finish level on points with Morocco, meaning goal difference will decide the group.

Elsewhere, George Weah, playing his first match since quitting and then returning to the international game, scored a vital goal as Liberia beat Sierra Leone 1-0 to keep alive their World Cup hopes.

The result puts Liberia back at the top of African Group B with 15 points after their eighth and final match.

Nigeria, on 13 points, require a home win against Ghana in two weeks' time to clinch the group's single place at next year's World Cup finals in Japan and South Korea.

Morocco and Senegal attacked from the start, but Senegal got the

break they needed in the 17th minute. A long ball upfield from defender Ferdinand Coly found striker El Hadji Ousseynou Diouf, who netted to bring his tournament tally to seven goals.

Morocco fought back and prevented Senegal extending their lead despite several scoring chances.

"We have done what we needed to do — now we must go to Namibia to win qualification," said Senegal's French coach Bruno Metsu.

The result left Senegal on 12 points, equal with Egypt but trailing on goal difference after the Egyptians hammered Namibia 8-2 away on Friday.

Weah then came off the bench 10 minutes into the second half and soon made his mark with a headed goal from a 73rd minute corner.

All the Pairings/Results

11 July	ECUADOR	1	CHILE	4
11 July	COLOMBIA	2	VENEZUELA	0
12 July	PERU	3	PARAGUAY	3
12 July	BRAZIL	0	MEXICO	1
13 July	BOLIVIA	0	URUGUAY	1
13 July	COSTA RICA	1	HONDURAS	0
14 July	CHILE	1	VENEZUELA	0
14 July	COLOMBIA	1	ECUADOR	0
15 July	BRAZIL	2	PERU	-0
15 July	PARAGUAY	0	MEXICO	0

16 July	URUGUAY	v	COSTA RICA
16 July	HONDURAS	v	BOLIVIA
17 July	ECUADOR	v	VENEZUELA
17 July	COLOMBIA	v	CHILE
18 July	PERU	v	MEXICO
18 July	BRAZIL	v	PARAGUAY
19 July	BOLIVIA	v	COSTA RICA
19 July	HONDURAS	v	URUGUAY

QUARTER-FINALS

(Top two in each qualify, plus two best 3rd place sides)

22 July	A 2nd Group A	v	2nd Group B
22 July	B 1st Group C	v	Best 3rd Place
23 July	C 1st Group A	v	2nd best 3rd Place
23 July	D 1st Group B	v	2nd Group C

SEMI-FINALS

25 July	Winner A	v	Winner B
26 July	Winner C	v	Winner D

Third place play-off — 29 July Bogota

FINAL

29 JULY BOGOTA

Zidane dreams Champions League glory with Madrid

Real Madrid's world record \$62 million signing Zinedine Zidane has said that his main aim at his new club is to add a Champions League title to his impressive collection of honours.

"For me the great objective will be to win the Champions League," the 29-year-old said in an interview with Real Madrid TV.

Zidane, who completed his move from Juventus to Real last week, played in the France sides that triumphed in the 1998 World Cup and the European championships of 2000, and the midfielder also won two Serie A championships and a World Club Cup at Juventus.

But on the two occasions the Frenchman reached the final of the European Cup with Juventus they were defeated. In 1997 they lost 3-1 to Borussia Dortmund and a year later it was Real that thwarted the Italian club with a 1-0 win in Amsterdam.

"Real Madrid have won the competition

many times and it would be brilliant to be able to add my name to the list of winners of the Champions League," said Zidane.

"That is my aim, although I also want to win the Spanish league and I am really looking forward to taking part in a championship in which I have never played."

Zidane, the world player of the year, admitted that he had been impatient to move from Juventus so that he would have a chance to play in the Spanish league.

He said: "I am now 29 and I am convinced that this year was the right time to leave Juventus and play in Spain."

"Now my dream has come true. I am very grateful and I can't wait to pull on the white shirt and play for Real Madrid."

Zidane said that he had been impressed by Real's style of play over the course of the last few seasons and was looking forward to forming part of what he believed was one of the most formidable teams in Europe.



Real Madrid's new star Zinedine Zidane (center) holds up his new team's shirt between Madrid's chairman Florentino Perez (left) and honorary president Alfredo Di Stefano during his presentation last week.

Petit reveals Barca misery spell

Emmanuel Petit has criticised his former club Barcelona, claiming the Spanish giants "bullied" his wife and made

his life miserable.

The France international, who joined English premier league side Chelsea in a 7.5 million pounds transfer last month, claims his wife Agathe, a 27-year-old actress, was not treated with the same respect shown to other players' wives out of jealousy.

In an interview with Ruby Wax screened on BBC Television on July 16, Petit said: "It's been very difficult for Agathe. She's a very nice person and some people did very nasty things to her."

"It comes down to one thing — jealousy. What people did to my wife I won't accept."

They bullied her and tried to make her very unhappy."

Petit played only 18 games in a frustrating season in Spain after leaving Arsenal along with Dutch international Marc



Emmanuel Petit

Overmars in a 32 million pounds joint transfer.

He said Barcelona never explained why they signed him only to offer him limited chances in the first team.

"I realised after just a few months, weeks even, how much I missed England," he said.

"I left a wonderful club and I loved the people."

"But I couldn't ask my agent to get me out, or for a move because I'd joined Barcelona and I knew my responsibilities to them."

"After just a few weeks I became a bit paranoid. I began to think it wasn't just about football, it was personal or even political. I had a chat with the Barcelona people, but I just could not get an explanation."

Weah makes international u-turn

Former world player of the year George Weah backtracked last week over his decision to quit Liberia's national team after the country's president Charles Taylor intervened.

Weah said earlier this month he would retire from international soccer the day after fans insulted him when a shock 2-1 defeat by Ghana badly undermined hopes of making next year's World Cup finals.

But Weah said last week, he had reconsidered after meeting Taylor and his wife.

"I am not quitting," Weah told reporters. "I want to see sports develop. I've got a lot of talent to put into the game."

Local media had appealed for Weah to stay on in the team in which he is also technical director.

"We are very happy that George is back on board. My team is intact," said Edwin Snowe, Liberian Football Association president.

The team travelled to

Sierra Leone for its final qualifying Group B match on Saturday, but must win to exert any pressure on Nigeria whose last game is home to Ghana on July 28.



George Weah

Weah has long been a national hero for putting some of his fortune from playing for European clubs into trying to revive soccer in war-ravaged Liberia.

...IT WON'T BE EASY, WARNS DEL BOSQUE

Real Madrid coach Vicente Del Bosque has said that the signing of World Player of the Year Zinedine Zidane will not automatically guarantee success for the Spanish champions.

"If anyone thinks that with Zidane we are going to sweep aside all our opponents or win every game 7-0 they are wrong," Del Bosque was quoted as saying in sports daily Marca.

World record signing Zidane will team up with European Player of the Year Luis Figo, the all-time Champions League top-scorer Raul and Brazilian international defender Roberto Carlos to form a formidable team at the Bernabeu.

But Del Bosque believes competition from other sides will be tougher than ever.

"There is no doubt that we are incorporating a player that would be welcome in any team in the world, but other teams also have some very good players that are tactically astute and are prepared to fight it out."

"The presence of good players, which we had even before the arrival of Zidane, does not necessarily mean you have a team. A team is built on the basis of an effort from all the players and it isn't good enough to just be brilliant in attack."

"We have got some great players, but now we have to make a great team. We have to look for a well-balanced line up that is capable of both playing well and of being competitive in all matches," he said.

Barcelona vice-president Angel Fernandez also sounded a warning about Real's transfer policy saying that the Frenchman would not have fitted into

the Catalan club's plans for the future.

"If we had wanted to we could have signed Zidane, but we chose to spend the money on buying several young players who have great potential for the future," he said.

"We already have players of the same class and experience (as Zidane) and we believe it is better to balance the team with a mixture of youth and experience."



Vicente Del Bosque

Valencia boss quits amidst tears

An emotional Pedro Cortes announced he was resigning as president of Spanish first division club Valencia with immediate effect last week.

"I've thought carefully about my future as president of Valencia and I've reached a decision motivated by important family and personal reasons to present my resignation," Cortes said in a statement read out by a club official at a news conference in Valencia.

A tearful Cortes then thanked all

those who had helped him during his period as president and added he was thankful he could leave with his "hands clean and head held high."

Cortes took over in December 1997 after previous president Paco Roig resigned following a poor run of form by the team.

Since then, the club has ended a 19-year title drought by winning the Spanish Cup in 1999 and has reached the final of the Champions League for the past two seasons.

Reports suggested that Cortes had

attempted to resign in May after the team's Champions League final defeat to Bayern Munich but had been persuaded to stay on by fellow directors. On Wednesday, he said his decision was irrevocable.

Vice-president Jaime Orti will take over on a provisional basis until a meeting of club directors on Monday.

Cortes has been under intense pressure in recent weeks as a result of speculation over the future of Valencia skipper Gaizka Mendieta.

PASSPORT SCAM HITS SPANISH CLUBS

Spanish football authorities have suspended Tenerife striker Barata and Alaves goalkeeper Martin Herrera after they were found to have used fake Italian passports.

Officials claimed Brazilian Barata knew he had no Italian relatives, yet presented an Italian passport to bypass Spanish league limits on foreign players.

He has been suspended for a year, while Argentine Herrera, who conceded five goals against Liverpool in the Uefa Cup final in May, was banned for a month.

Herrera was deemed to have been less personally

responsible in obtaining the false documents.

Barata became the third Tenerife player to have been hit with a six-month ban.

Brazilians Alvaro and Baiano were also found to have false European Union passports.

"It's a lot of time but I've still got my dreams of playing for the team in the first division," Barata said.

Similar investigations in Italy and France have resulted in the suspension of more than a dozen other Latin American players.



RUSSO WRITES

By Joe Russo

The false-passports scandal continues to haunt the Italian Serie A. Napoli director and former club President, Corrado Ferlaino, is set to take legal action against Inter and the Italian Federation (FIGC).

Napoli, who were relegated in the just completed season claim that Inter, by playing Alvaro Recoba in 11 games last season, altered the championship standings. In other words, Inter used an illegal player to gain an unfair advantage.

Inter's actions, according to Ferlaino, affected Napoli's Serie A position and therefore they were relegated.

Recoba of Uruguay was recently found guilty of having obtained an Italian passport by using false documentation.

Napoli are suing for the equivalent of approximately \$A 220 million because this is what they claim it cost the club from sponsorship and gate takings by dropping down to the Serie B.

It's a long shot, some may even call it 'sour grapes', but Ferlaino and Napoli are going ahead with their legal challenge.

The Italian Federation it would seem has a case to answer for because, instead of punishing the clubs for using 'illegal' players, they rewarded them. One recalls that with six rounds to play they changed the rules - they allowed all clubs to field as many non-EU players as it pleased.

Napoli will certainly not gain anything out of the case other than financial reward if it wins, but the point will have been made to some very amateurish administrators that you can't run a multi million dollar business like the Serie A in such a fashion.

Vittorio Cecchi Gori will not be Fiorentina President no matter what happens to the club financially. Having sold Rui Costa to AC Milan and Francesco Toldo to Inter to help 'balance its books', the club is still not out of the financial nightmare it is in.

Cecchi Gori, the flamboyant owner, who recently was found in possession of a small quantity of cocaine, is on the outer with the fans. He inherited the presidency of the club from his dad Mario - a well known film producer - but many said that Vittorio was never worthy of filling the shoes of his late dad.

Last year he sold club idol Gabriel Batistuta to Roma, long time director and club legend Giancarlo Antognoni resigned, likeable Turkish coach Fatih Terim resigned during the year citing differences with Cecchi Gori, the club is now in a financial crisis, Costa and Toldo are sold, and he has been caught with cocaine.

All this in the space of just a year. It is well and truly time for Cecchi Gori to go.

AC Milan have made the acquisition of Filippo Inzaghi from Juventus to partner the brilliant Ukraine, Andrey Shevchenko, up front. They should prove a real lethal combination for the red and black stripes next season.

With Inzaghi out of the picture, it leaves the door open for Christian Vieri to transfer from Inter to Juventus. Now Inter President, Massimo Moratti, constantly denies any transfer.

However, here are the reasons that Vieri will play for Juventus next season. Firstly Inzaghi is gone, secondly Juventus coach Marcello Lippi wants Vieri, thirdly Juventus has the money from the Zinedine Zidane sale to Real Madrid, fourthly Vieri wants to leave Inter and lastly Vieri always breaks contracts and shows very little club loyalty.

As reported in this column six weeks ago, Vieri will definitely wear the Juventus strip next season.

AC Milan appointed a few weeks ago Terim, the former Fiorentina and Galatasaray coach, for next season.

Terim joined Fiorentina this time last year but didn't see out his contract at the club because of his differences with Cecchi Gori.

The likeable Turk had great success with Galatasaray taking them to UEFA Cup glory and then opted to leave them for the high-pressure world of the Serie A.

Many in Italy expressed their surprise that Fiorentina chose Terim as coach and he was hot favourite to be the first coach sacked last year.

However, a series of better than expected results saw Terim earn respect and it wasn't because of his coaching ability that he left Fiorentina.

AC Milan is a bigger club who expect better results than Fiorentina and therefore there is more pressure on the coach. In fact it is arguably one the most prestigious coaching positions in the Serie A.

Terim will be expected to achieve from day one but once again he is hot favourite to be the first coach sacked. Can Terim prove his critics wrong again or will he be unemployed by Christmas? Unfortunately for him I think the latter has better odds.

ITALY ... ITALY...

Ronaldo turns up at Inter training

Ronaldo resumed training with Inter Milan on Monday and could make his return to full action later this month, his club said.

The Brazilian striker missed all of last season after undergoing a knee operation and returned to Milan at the weekend.

He flew into Sardinia to take part in a mini-training camp with seven other Inter players as pre-season preparation began on July 15. Inter's first pre-season friendly is against English first division club Watford on July 31 in the northern Italian town of Lecco.

While Ronaldo will be hoping to be involved in the warm-up games in order to be ready for the new Serie A campaign which kicks off on August 26, a club spokesman said it was too soon to judge whether the Brazilian would play against Watford.

"He's only just restarted training today - we need a little bit

more time. The game (against Watford) isn't until the 31st and team preparation for that game won't begin until the 15th, so there's quite a lot of time yet," said the spokesman.

"But he's back in training and that's what counts. We'll have to see closer to the time."

The Brazilian says he is looking forward to reforming his partner-



Ronaldo:

ship with Inter's Italy international striker Christian Vieri, who has also suffered with injuries in the past two seasons.

The pair, who became the world's most expensive strike partnership when Vieri moved from Lazio in the summer of 1999, have been restricted to just 119 minutes on the field together in two seasons.

Raise \$60m or fold-up, Fiorentina told

An Italian court has given troubled Fiorentina two months to stave off bankruptcy. President Vittorio Cecchi Gori, who faces money-laundering and cocaine possession charges, said: "I am putting my mother Valeria (aged 82) in charge for this period."

Fiorentina must find \$60 million in the short term to pay off debtors, as well as show that players and TV-rights will be sold to prevent the club falling into the red once again. A ban on the club buying and selling of players has been lifted.

The Florence giants were also

ordered to call in \$34.5 million from Finmavi, a company owned by Cecchi Gori which owes the money from an old loan taken out when it was struggling with the film arm of its business.

Cecchi Gori has put his mother at the helm while he fights his various lawsuits and given the directors strict instructions on how to raise the cash.

"I hope we can keep Enrico Chiesa for next season," he said of the Italy forward who is Fiorentina's prize asset following the sales of Manuel Rui Costa and Francesco Toldo. "I have told the board not to sell him and I am sure they will act accordingly."

Until Rui Costa and Toldo were offloaded, the Viola were in even greater peril. The \$67.5 million brought in by their sales to AC Milan and

Internazionale respectively effectively saved the club.

There is doubt, though, over the futures of Dejan Stankovic from Lazio, Bari midfielder Daniel Andersson and Empoli wide-man Marco Marchionni, who were all "signed" by Fiorentina shortly before their financial woes became public.

None of the three were included in a squad of 26 which began pre-season training last weekend ahead of a tour of England to play Tottenham Hotspur (August 8) and Leicester City (August 10).

The Viola's first official match comes a week later against Serie A champions Roma in the Italian Supercup.

Zidane left on our terms, says Juve

Juventus decided to sell Zinedine Zidane to Real Madrid, even though he had offered to stay for another season.

General manager Luciano Moggi said Zidane had proposed a move for the summer of 2002 which would have brought Juve just a third of the world record \$66 million Real paid for the Frenchman last week.

Zidane raised some eyebrows in Italy with comments on his personal website indicating he was ready to stay

another year in Turin before moving to Madrid.

"This transfer took place very rapidly, when, in fact, it was planned for next year," said World Player of the Year Zidane.

"But, in the end, Juventus thought over Real Madrid's offer and finally decided that if an operation was to happen, it should be this year and not the following."

"It was important for them that they get a good deal of money out of the transfer deal. It happened very quickly, in three days," said the Frenchman.

Moggi, who handles all Juve's transfer dealings, said it was in Juve's interests to sell Zidane sooner rather than later.

"I've read Zidane's statement where he says he wanted to leave next year. I highly esteem him as a man, but after our last match of the season something happened that I didn't quite appreciate," Moggi told the club's website.

"Zidane wanted a deal which would free him next year, on his terms and conditions. However negotiations are conducted by the club and not by the players. We considered the fact he wanted to go to Spain and we went ahead with it."

"To keep a player that has his mind set on going elsewhere is useless, worse it's damaging. Moreover we could not comply with his terms and conditions."

Moggi said Zidane's proposal would have seen him move at just a third of the world record fee Real paid on Monday.



Parma's new Japanese midfielder Hidetoshi Nakata training toward the new season at Morgex in the Aosta Valley. Nakata was transferred to Parma from champions Roma.

BANNED PERUGIA PLAYERS GET REPRIEVE

Two Perugia players who were suspended for 16 months after testing positive for the banned steroid nandrolone have had their bans halved on appeal, ANSA news agency reported.

Cristian Bucchi and Salvatore Monaco were banned after testing positive following their team's Serie A league match against Lazio on October 14 last season.

A third player, Andrea Da Rold of Serie B club Pescara, also had a 16-month ban for nandrolone cut in half by the federal appeals committee (CAF) of the Italian football federation.

Bucchi and Monaco's bans run from December 15, 2000, while Da Rold, who tested positive in September last year, will be banned from January 19 of this year.



ENGLAND ... ENGLAND ... ENGLAND

Schmeichel joins Villa in shock move

Former Manchester United goalkeeper Peter Schmeichel has joined Aston Villa on a free transfer in one of the most unexpected deals of the English close season.

The 37-year-old Dane, who has signed a one-year contract with the English premier league club, left Sporting Lisbon last month after two years in Portugal, declining an option to stay another season.

Schmeichel will replace David James at Villa Park after the England international joined premier league rivals West Ham United.

"I considered retiring when I left Lisbon but I quickly found out that I still had a hunger to play football," Schmeichel told Sky television.

"Once that was decided, I knew there was only one place for me to play - and that was the premier league. It is the best league in the world.

"I know it will be strange not playing for United, but I hope people respect my decision to carry on playing and to sign for Villa. I know I can never play for United again, but Villa are a big club."

The signing was a complete surprise to most of the football world, something which Villa manager John Gregory and chairman Doug Ellis relished.

"It was nice to keep it quiet, a bit like the old days," Gregory told Sky. "To slide somebody in through the back door, it was very cloak and dagger. It was good fun trying to avoid everybody."

Ellis, criticised by Villa fans for not spending enough on top players, was equally pleased to have caught the media unawares.

"I could see the look on all your faces when we presented Peter Schmeichel to you and naturally I took a certain amount of pleasure in that," Ellis said.

Schmeichel's signing will go some way towards allaying fans' concerns heightened on Wednesday



Former Man. Utd goalkeeper Peter Schmeichel faces the press after announcing that he will join Aston Villa.

by the double loss of James and fellow England international, defender Gareth Southgate, who joined Middlesbrough.

The Villa website said Schmeichel was hoping to join up with his new team mates in time to make his debut in their Intertoto Cup third round, first leg match against Croatian side Slaven Belupo on Saturday.

He played 129 times for Denmark, helping his country win the 1992 European championship, before retiring from international football in April.

Gunners close-in on Jap star

Japan international Junichi Inamoto moved a step closer to signing for Arsenal when Gamba Osaka confirmed they had reached a basic agreement with the English premier league club.

The 21-year-old midfielder is expected to be formally unveiled as an Arsenal player when the J-League season's first stage finishes on July 21, Gamba officials said.

Inamoto, whose move will be subject to a medical, said he was excited about the prospect of becoming the first Japanese player to play for an English premier league side.

"Obviously, I'm a bit nervous. But I'm motivated for the challenge of winning a first-team spot and helping Arsenal to win the title,"

said Inamoto, who played a key role in Japan's recent Confederations Cup and Kirin Cup campaigns.

Inamoto said that Arsenal manager Arsene Wenger's experience of managing J-League side Nagoya Grampus Eight in the mid-1990s had been a factor in choosing the club ahead of a number of other European teams who were chasing his signature.

"Mr. Wenger knows a lot about Japan, which will be a big help for me," Inamoto said.

Wenger told Japanese reporters he was impressed with Inamoto when the Frenchman was working as a television analyst during last month's Confederations Cup in Japan and South Korea.



Manchester United's new signing Argentine Juan Sebastian Veron holds up a scarf at Old Trafford, last week during his signing ceremony.

39m dollar-man Veron, hails Man. Utd as the best

Juan Veron says he hoped to rise to expectations at Manchester United following his British transfer record \$39.5 million move last week.

Veron was unveiled to the media at an Old Trafford news conference after completing his transfer from Lazio.

"I hope I can satisfy everyone's aspirations of me," the 26-year-old Argentina midfielder said. "United are one of the best, if not the best, clubs in the world. I have no fear about playing here."

Alex Ferguson, the United manager, said: "I have always been searching for a world class player

and we have that in Veron.

He's world class and he is also coming into the peak years of his career now."

United chief executive Peter Kenyon said: "We believe it is money well spent. We have been targeting Juan for weeks."

Argentine international Veron,

completed the British record \$39.4 million move from Lazio to Manchester United, on a five-year contract with United but he will have to wait for his work permit before making his debut for the English champions.

The 26-year-old, who began his career at Estudiantes de La Plata before a spell alongside Diego Maradona at Boca Juniors, is the most expensive player in British football history.

United set the previous record in April when they bought Dutch striker Ruud van Nistelrooy from PSV Eindhoven for \$26.74 million.

Veron spent two years at Lazio, helping them win the Serie A title in 2000.

The end of his spell in Rome was dominated by the fake passport scandal in which Veron was accused of obtaining an Italian passport under false pretences.

But he was cleared at an Italian Football League disciplinary hearing last month, paving the way for United to move in.

Veron has won 41 caps for Argentina and in helping his country reach the quarter-finals of the World Cup in France in 1998, he was lauded as one of the best players in the world.

He brings that reputation to Old Trafford, but Veron will have to compete for a place in United's midfield with Roy Keane, David Beckham, Ryan Giggs, Paul Scholes and Nicky Butt.

Madrid deny Vieira interest

Real Madrid have no plans to make a bid for Arsenal's French international midfielder Patrick Vieira, club sporting director Jorge Valdano has said.

"We have never spoken about the possibility of signing Vieira," Valdano told worldsoccer.com.

"For the moment the only French players that I am interested in are Zidane and Claude Makelele."

Spanish sports daily As claimed that Real Madrid's new world record signing Zinedine Zidane had recommended his international team mate as the ideal purchase if the Spanish champions wanted to strengthen their midfield which already contains French international Makelele.

The 25-year-old Vieira hit the headlines last month when it was reported that he wanted to leave Arsenal after five years in London to take on a new challenge.

Arsenal coach Arsene Wenger has since insisted, though, that Vieira will be staying at Highbury. Real have admitted they are interested in strengthening their midfield again, with reports suggesting that Valencia's Gaizka Mendieta is their prime target.

But club president Florentino Perez has said he is not prepared to pay the \$51.3 million it would take to buy the Spanish international out of his contract with last season's Champions League finalists.



Patrick Vieira: Real Madrid denies attempt to sign him from Arsenal.

Celtic's premiership rumours quashed

The English premier league has denied suggestions that Scottish champions Celtic

could soon join the competition.

"We have had no formal discussions with Celtic and there are no plans to restructure the (English) premier league," said premier league spokesman Philip French.

Celtic's majority shareholder, Dermot Desmond, had claimed in an interview that talks regarding the move were already underway. "This (the move) will happen inevitably," said Desmond, who owns around 20 percent of Celtic, in the Dublin-based Business and Finance Weekly magazine.

"I believe that, within a number of years, Celtic can be generating profits of six to seven million pounds from its multi-media activities alone - and that's even before we leave the Scottish premier league."

Celtic and Glasgow rivals Rangers have, between them, won every Scottish championship since 1986. An integration into the English top division - where competition is seen to be more intense - has been debated for years.

PLATT ASSUMES U-21 MANTLE

Former Aston Villa and Juventus midfielder David Platt has been appointed coach of the England under-21 team.

The Football Association (FA) said Platt would relinquish immediately his role as manager of English first division club Nottingham Forest, a post he has held for two years.

"This is a great opportunity for me and I'm looking forward to working with the best young players in the country," the former England captain said.

The under-21 post was vacant after Howard Wilkinson, the former manager of Leeds United, left the job last month after a 3-1 defeat to Greece in a European under-21 championship qualifier in Athens.

FA chief executive Adam Crozier held talks with Forest last week and an agreement was reached between the two parties, the FA said.



FIFA

World Rankings

(Valid until July 18)

1	France	818	69	Burkina Faso	508	137	Grenada	299
2	Brazil	796	70=	Congo DR	506	138	Yemen	295
3	Argentina	771	70=	Cyprus	506	139	Rwanda	293
4	Italy	747	70=	Zimbabwe	506	140	Myanmar	291
5	Portugal	734	73	Iraq	505	141	Tajikistan	273
6	Spain	733	74	Kuwait	502	142	Ethiopia	271
7	Czech Republic	726	75	Canada	501	143	Surinam	268
8	Germany	720	76	Macedonia FYR	499	144	Luxemburg	264
9	Netherlands	718	77	Estonia	498	145	Andorra	255
10	Paraguay	714	78=	Bosnia-Herz.	498	146	Palestine	252
11	Yugoslavia	702	78=	Georgia	494	147	Bangladesh	248
12	Romania	696	80	Senegal	489	148=	Liechtenstein	248
13	England	693	81	New Zealand	488	150	Maldives	247
14	Croatia	672	82	Cuba	484	151=	Korea DPR	246
15	Mexico	670	83	Algeria	480	151=	Sri Lanka	246
16=	Denmark	665	84	Belarus	476	153	Tanzania	238
16=	United States	665	85=	Albania	476	154	Antigua and Bar.	237
18	Colombia	660	85=	Haiti	471	155	Botswana	229
18	Norway	660	87=	El Salvador	471	156	Benin	220
20	Russia	659	87=	Guinea	469	157	Nepal	217
21	Sweden	657	89=	Indonesia	469	158	Dominica	213
22	Ireland Republic	641	89=	Qatar	465	159	San Marino	211
23	Poland	638	91	Gabon	464	160	Bermuda	209
24	South Africa	632	92	Congo	460	161	Gambia	208
25	Trinidad & Tobago	628	93	Namibia	456	162	Cape Verde Is.	207
26	Belgium	626	94	Syria	455	163	Cayman Islands	206
27	Saudi Arabia	621	95	Oman	450	164	Dominican Rep.	202
28	Morocco	620	96	Armenia	446	165	British Virgin Is.	195
29	Tunisia	617	97	Lithuania	442	166	Kyrgyzstan	194
30	Slovakia	616	98	Lebanon	438	167	Laos	190
31	Turkey	613	99	Jordan	437	168	Eritrea	186
32	Scotland	611	100	Vietnam SR	430	169	Vanuatu	183
33	Japan	609	101	Latvia	424	170	Chinese Taipei	178
34	Egypt	601	102	Moldova	422	171	Cambodia	177
35=	Chile	600	103	Kenya	421	172	Mauritania	167
35=	Slovenia	600	104	Kazakhstan	420	173	Chad	158
37	Korea Republic	599	105	Northern Ireland	417	174	Belize	155
38	Cameroon	597	106	Wales	412	175=	Samoa	153
39	Austria	596	107	Singapore	411	175=	Cook Islands	153
40	Uruguay	591	108	Barbados	406	177	Guyana	152
41	Israel	589	109	Mali	404	178	Tonga	143
42	Cote d'Ivoire	584	110	Malaysia	400	179	Philippines	127
43	Ukraine	583	111	Uganda	386	180	Nether. Antilles	123
44	Ecuador	582	112	Venezuela	383	181	Central African Rep.	118
45	Nigeria	581	113	India	378	182	Guinea-Bissau	115
46=	Bulgaria	578	114	Panama	375	183	Macao	113
46=	Costa Rica	578	115	Libya	366	184	Bahamas	111
48	Jamaica	577	116	Turkmenistan	363	185	Sao Tome	105
49	Iran	570	117	Mozambique	359	186	Principe	101
50	Australia	569	118	Sudan	356	187	Pakistan	99
51	Honduras	568	119=	Bahrain	355	188	Aruba	94
52	Iceland	565	119=	Faroe Islands	354	189	Niger	89
53	Hungary	561	121=	Azerbaijan	353	190	Mongolia	87
54	Angola	559	122=	Mauritius	349	191	Nicaragua	86
55	Greece	558	123	Madagascar	336	192	Equatorial Guinea	80
56	Guatemala	550	124	Malawi	329	193	Brunei Darussalam	77
57	Peru	549	125	Fiji	327	194	Seychelles	65
58	Zambia	547	126	Tahiti	324	195	Djibouti	62
59	Finland	545	127	Lesotho	324	196	Anguilla	57
60	Thailand	541	128	St Lucia	317	197	Papua New Guinea	55
61	Switzerland	540	129=	St Kitts & Nevis	317	198	Somalia	48
62	Ghana	537	129=	St Vincent/Gre.	316	199	Puerto Rico	28
63	China PR	527	131=	Solomon Islands	312	200	US Virgin Islands	22
64	Uzbekistan	525	131=	Swaziland	311	201	Guam	15
65	UAE	519	133	Malta	311	202	Turks and Caicos Is.	14
66	Bolivia	515	134	Sierra Leone	311	203	Bhutan	11
67	Togo	511	135=	Burundi	311		Montserrat	
68	Liberia	509	135=	Hong Kong	311			

Note: Teams inactive since 1991 and teams which have not played yet do not appear in the table.

Transfer News ... Transfer News ...

Walker walks away from Spurs

Goalkeeper Ian Walker has quit Tottenham and joined Leicester City in a \$3million deal that will open the door for the arrival of Blackburn's Alan Kelly at White Hart Lane.

The former England international decided to leave Spurs because he is not prepared to spend another season as understudy to the Scottish international Neil Sullivan.

And after signing a four-year contract

at Filbert Street, Walker — son of former Norwich and Everton manager Mike — said: "I felt it was time for a change of scenery and my priority now is to get into the Leicester side."

He must battle against ex-England man Tim Flowers and misses the first two matches of next season through suspension.

Foxes manager Peter Taylor explained: "I said all last season we could have done with three keepers."

"It's correct to say that I was in the market for another keeper, but I was made aware that Ian was available at a price we could afford and I wanted him here."

Kelly, who has grown frustrated at Blackburn after the emergence of Brad Friedel, will cost Spurs £600,000, and the transfer is expected to be finalised this week.

Boro welcomes Southgate

England defender Gareth Southgate is set to move to Middlesbrough after his club Aston Villa accepted an undisclosed bid from their premier league rivals.

The 30-year-old must agree personal terms with new Middlesbrough manager Steve McClaren before the transfer can be finalised.

"A deal has now been agreed with

Middlesbrough. All that remains now is for Gareth to agree terms and pass a medical."

Villa's deputy chief executive Mark Ansell said on the club's official website on Monday.

Southgate originally asked for a transfer 12 months ago and resigned as Villa captain at the end of last season.



Gareth Southgate: Seals Middlesbrough move.

Zaragoza break bank for Drulic

Yugoslav international striker Goran Drulic completed a \$10.92 million move from Red Star Belgrade to Real Zaragoza last week, becoming the most expensive recruit in the Spanish club's history.

"I am conscious of what the club has paid and feel a great responsibility as a result of the move," said the 24-year-old centre forward after signing a four-year contract with the King's Cup winners.

"I hope that it will not weigh heavily on me when I come to run out on the pitch and I know that I will do everything I can to return the club's confidence in me," he added.

Drulic will be following in the footsteps of compatriot Savo Milosevic, who scored 21 goals in his last season at the club before moving to Italy's Parma for \$22.8 million 12 months ago.

"I play in the same position as Milosevic and I only hope that I can enjoy the same success as he did," Drulic said.

Club president Alfonso Solans said the signing of Drulic was "just what the club needed and just what the fans were demanding."

Zaragoza had a disappointing season in the

league, finishing in 17th position and avoiding relegation by just a point.

The Aragonese team, however, ended the campaign on a

high by pulling off a surprise 3-1 victory over favourites Celta Vigo in the King's Cup final to earn a place in next season's UEFA Cup.

Txetxu Rojo, formerly with Athletic Bilbao, was unveiled as Zaragoza's new coach last week.

EVERTON WARN UNHAPPY NYARKO

Everton have told Alex Nyarko he must return to the English premier league club for pre-season training if his transfer hopes come to nothing over the next few weeks.

The Ghanaian international has been on the transfer list since he vowed to quit the game altogether in April after an Everton fan ran onto the pitch during a match against Arsenal at Highbury to remonstrate with him.

The fan claimed Nyarko had not been trying hard enough and attempted to swap shirts with the player who promptly walked off the pitch demanding to be substituted.

Nyarko joined Everton last year from French club Lens for \$6.36 million but Everton say there has been no interest from any club since they publicised his transfer request.

And if that situation remains unchanged manager Walter Smith expects him back in training.

"He will report back with the squad but at a later date," Smith told the club's website.

"We have not had anything yet, but a lot of the countries still have plenty of time before they start their football and we are hopeful there will be something within the next few days."

COPENHAGEN UNVEIL NEW KEEPER

Danish champions FC Copenhagen signed Swedish international Magnus Kihlstedt last week as their new first choice goalkeeper.

Kihlstedt, 29, joined FC Copenhagen on a three-year contract from Norway's SK Brann Bergen, for whom he played 105 matches. He has made 10 appearances for Sweden.

Michael Stensgaard, FC Copenhagen's main goalkeeper, is suffering from a long-term injury. Norwegian Thomas Myhre was on loan at the club last season from England's Everton.

The new Danish superleague season is scheduled to start on July 22.



Transfer News ... Transfer News ... Transfer News ...

Mendieta not for sale, Valencia insist

Valencia's ex-president Pedro Cortes dismissed reports last week that Gaizka Mendieta could be for sale, saying he would rather go hungry than lose the creative midfielder.

"Mendieta is not for sale because he is an integral part of the club," Cortes was quoted as saying in the Spanish media when asked about the interest of Real Madrid and Lazio in signing the Spanish international. "He can only leave if he wants to and if another club

pays the sum stipulated in the buy-out clause of his contract." But Cortes insisted: "I would rather go hungry than sell Mendieta."

The midfielder fuelled speculation that he wanted to leave Valencia after he refused to answer questions about his future at a press conference in Andorra last weekend.

Cortes, who quit later in the week, revealed that he had already rejected an offer of \$41.10 million for Mendieta from Serie A club Lazio.

Real Madrid have also

expressed their interest in the player, but president Florentino Perez said they were not prepared to pay Mendieta's buy-out clause of 10,000 million pesetas (\$51.38 million).

"Valencia have to agree to it. We are not, under any circumstances, going to pay the buy-out clause."

Real's sporting director Jorge Valdano echoed Perez's comments in a radio interview following the presentation of the club's new \$66.05 million signing Zinedine Zidane.



Youri Djorkaeff: Mends fences with Kaiserslautern.

KAISERS HANG ONTO DJORKAEFF

France midfielder Youri Djorkaeff will stay at Kaiserslautern, the club said last week.

Djorkaeff said last month he wanted to return to French side Paris Saint Germain — with whom he won the European Cup Winners' Cup in 1996 — after criticising Kaiserslautern coach Andreas Brehme.

"Youri Djorkaeff will play for and with Kaiserslautern with total commitment," the German Bundesliga club said

in a statement.

Djorkaeff, 33, spent three seasons at Inter Milan from 1996.

He moved on to Kaiserslautern but his two years in the Bundesliga were disappointing and he said he wanted to return to PSG. No reasons for the settlement were given.

The midfielder has won both World Cup and European Championship medals with France.

Hooijdonk hooks onto Feyenoord



Pierre Hooijdonk

Feyenoord have signed striker Pierre van Hooijdonk from Portugal's Benfica on a two-year contract, the club said on its official website.

The Dutch first division side did not disclose the transfer fee for the 31-year-old international.

Van Hooijdonk started his professional career with RBC Roosendaal before moving to top flight Dutch side NAC Breda.

His rise began when he joined Glasgow Celtic but he soon fell out with the club.

Van Hooijdonk's next spell, at Nottingham Forest, also ended acrimoniously. He left after complaining that the squad was not strong enough to remain in the English premier league.

A move to Vitesse Arnhem did not last long as they were forced to sell him within a year to shore up their finances.

At Benfica for a single season, he said that the club owed him fees related to his transfer.

Van Hooijdonk has scored nine goals in 24 appearances for the Dutch national side.



Borussia Dortmund players Marcio Amoroso (left) and Jan Koller pose for photographers during the official team photo session. The club recently signed Brazilian midfielder Maricio Amoroso for a reported \$21.51million, a new Bundesliga record, as well as giant Czech striker Jan Koller for around \$10.8 million.

West Ham seal James move

West Ham have officially confirmed the signing of Aston Villa keeper David James after agreeing a \$5million deal with the Midlands.

Villa revealed last week that they had given England international James permission to talk over the move with the East Londoners.

The 30-year-old has agreed a four-year contract with new Hammers boss Glenn Roeder, with his move being confirmed just hours after teammate Gareth Southgate left Villa Park for Middlesbrough.

And he said: "It is a good deal for everyone. I get the chance to make a new start at an excellent club and Villa get a good price."

James believes his Villa deputy, Finnish international Peter Enckelman, will relish the chance of moving into the first team, and added: "He is an excellent keeper, and I have



David James

no doubts about his ability."

Villa signed James from Liverpool for \$2.1million two years ago. The keeper began his career at Watford.

..HARTSON MAY FOLLOW SUIT

West Ham boss Glenn Roeder has admitted his interest in bringing John Hartson back to Upton Park.

The 26-year-old striker has admitted being interested in an immediate return to The Premiership after failing to prove Coventry's saviour last season after joining them in February.

With the future of both his main strikers, Frederic Kanoute and Paolo di Canio, far from certain, the signing of Hartson would be a boost to West Ham fans disappointed over the events at the club during the summer.

"It's true that I have considered John and a number of other players as well," Roeder said.

Despite this, Hartson did impress in his 12 games in a Coventry shirt, scoring six times and proving himself to be undoubtedly a player of top-flight pedigree.

The Welsh international spent two years at Upton Park from February 1997, almost the exact amount of time he spent at all his previous clubs, and was a popular figure with the fans after scoring the goals that kept the East End side up in his first three months at the club.

After a prolific start to his Hammers career, Hartson went off the boil somewhat in his last 12 months at the club, scoring just eight goals in this time.

FERRER EYES BETIS MOVE

Chelsea defender Albert Ferrer is set for a return to Spain with Real Betis, and says that Claudio Ranieri will not stand in the way of his preferred move.

The former Barcelona right back has admitted that he wants to leave Stamford Bridge for a return to Spain with the Primera Liga newcomers Betis, and that

Chelsea officials will not make it hard for him to leave.

"What is happening is that Chelsea know that I want to leave. They know that I want to go back to Spain and I don't think they'll make things difficult," said Ferrer.

The 31-year-old said that a move to Betis is just a rumour for now, but said that he would like to move to Seville if an

offer was received.

"I'm a little bit out of touch with Spanish football but you don't need to know much to know that Betis are one of the big teams in Spain."

"I've only heard rumours about a move, but if it was true I'd be very happy. Until it's certain I'm not going to say anything."

...AS KAREMBEU'S EXIT NEARS

CHRISTIAN KAREMBEU'S agent has again denied claims that Olympiakos have agreed a deal to sign the French international, but admitted that the Greek side have been in touch with the Teesside club.

Milan Calasan revealed last week that his client has not signed a deal with anyone, but he has now admitted that Olympiakos have been in contact with Middlesbrough.

"Christian is returning to training with Middlesbrough, but there is contact, serious contact," confirmed Calasan.

"Olympiakos want Christian, but Monaco does have interest like Paris Saint Germain before them."

"Christian will speak



Christian Karembou

with Steve McClaren, and maybe something will happen next week.

"Monaco is doubtful, because Christian is a Frenchman and he must pay taxes, Olympiakos would be a good solution."

Karembou's future will be decided over the next week as Boro prepare for pre-season.

IMAGES OF THE COPA AMERICA



• (Clockwise from top left): Colombian soccer fans hold a giant sign reading: "Argentines, sons of bitches," during the match between Chile and Ecuador in Barranquilla, last week.

• A Colombian soccer fan with his face completely covered and wearing a funny hat inside the Melendez Stadium in Barranquilla, Colombia.

• Brazil's Everton (centre) is stopped by Peru's Martin Hidalgo (right) and Jose Soto in their second match at Cali's Pascual Guerrero Stadium.

• Chilean players celebrate their goal against Ecuador as Ecuadorian player Jorge Guagua (left, front) looks on during their opening match.

• Brazil's Denilson celebrates after scoring his team's second goal against Peru in their match. Brazil won 2-0.

• Chilean player Christian Montecinos (15) battles for the ball with Ecuadorian player Edison Mendez (left).

